

Parties to Offences under the Canadian *Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act* : an Analysis of Principal Liability and Complicity

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Résumé de l'article

La *Loi sur les crimes contre l'humanité et les crimes de guerre* présente une mosaïque intéressante en ce qui concerne le droit applicable aux poursuites des crimes de génocide, crimes contre l'humanité et crimes de guerre devant les tribunaux canadiens. Les définitions qu'elle offre des infractions se réfèrent essentiellement au droit international, tandis que les moyens de défenses disponibles sont ceux du droit canadien et du droit international, et que les modes de participation aux infractions sont exclusivement ceux prévus par le droit pénal canadien. Ce dernier aspect soulève la question de la pertinence et de l'utilité effective de ce choix du législateur de fonder sur le droit national les principes de responsabilité pénale individuelle pour des crimes internationaux. La présente étude offre une ébauche d'analyse de certains des modes de participation aux infractions prévus par la Loi, soit la commission et la complicité de l'article 21 du *Code criminel*. Cette analyse vise à évaluer, à la lumière des principes développés en droit international pénal relatifs à la responsabilité individuelle, si ou comment ces principes de droit canadien pourront s'adapter à la nature particulière — collective — des crimes internationaux.

Parties to Offences under the Canadian *Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act*: an Analysis of Principal Liability and Complicity

Fannie LAFONTAINE*

The Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act presents an interesting mosaic of law applicable to the domestic prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The definitions of offences refer essentially to international law, whereas the available defences, justifications and excuses are those of both Canadian law and international law, and the modes of participation in offences are exclusively those of Canadian law. This raises the question of the relevance and effectiveness of the legislative choice to apply domestic law to the principles of liability for international crimes. The present study offers a preliminary and limited analysis of certain modes of participation in offences provided for by the Act, namely perpetration and complicity pursuant to section 21 of the Criminal Code. This analysis aims at assessing, in light of the principles developed in international criminal law with respect to individual responsibility, whether and how Canadian law may be adapted to the particular—collective—nature of international crimes.

La Loi sur les crimes contre l'humanité et les crimes de guerre présente une mosaïque intéressante en ce qui concerne le droit applicable aux poursuites des crimes de génocide, crimes contre l'humanité et crimes

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de guerre devant les tribunaux canadiens. Les définitions qu'elle offre des infractions se réfèrent essentiellement au droit international, tandis que les moyens de défenses disponibles sont ceux du droit canadien et du droit international, et que les modes de participation aux infractions sont exclusivement ceux prévus par le droit pénal canadien. Ce dernier aspect soulève la question de la pertinence et de l'utilité effective de ce choix du législateur de fonder sur le droit national les principes de responsabilité pénale individuelle pour des crimes internationaux. La présente étude offre une ébauche d'analyse de certains des modes de participation aux infractions prévus par la Loi, soit la commission et la complicité de l'article 21 du Code criminel. Cette analyse vise à évaluer, à la lumière des principes développés en droit international pénal relatifs à la responsabilité individuelle, si ou comment ces principes de droit canadien pourront s'adapter à la nature particulière — collective — des crimes internationaux.

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The *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*¹ was adopted to fulfil two main objectives: 1) to implement Canada’s obligations under

1. *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 24 [hereinafter “*War Crimes Act*”].

the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*² in order to ensure its ability to cooperate fully with investigations and prosecutions by the International Criminal Court (ICC); and 2) to retain and enhance Canada's capacity to prosecute and punish persons accused of the "core" international crimes, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes³. At the heart of the system put in place by the ICC to ensure accountability for these crimes lies the principle of complementarity. States bear the primary responsibility to prosecute those responsible for international crimes. The ICC will exercise its jurisdiction only if the competent State is "unable" or "unwilling" to do so⁴.

The criminalisation of core international crimes in domestic criminal legal systems is therefore essential for the success of the ICC and, more broadly, of the international criminal justice enterprise. The Rome Statute has spurred an effort by State parties to enact implementing legislation for such purpose, as well as to facilitate cooperation with the international body. Canada was one of the first States to adopt such legislation⁵. The *War Crimes Act's* provisions with respect to jurisdiction, which provide for universal jurisdiction, as well as those regarding the substantive definitions of crimes, general principles of liability and available defences, are central for the fulfilment of the second objective cited above, namely the strengthening of Canada's ability to prosecute the core international crimes. With respect to these various aspects, the Act presents an interesting mosaic of applicable law. Its definitions regarding offences refer essentially to international law, whereas the available defences, justifications and excuses are those of both Canadian law and international law, and the modes of participation in offences are exclusively those of Canadian law.

Without a doubt, principles of liability are fundamental in determining the criminal responsibility of a person. In this regard, contrary to the legislation of other states⁶, the Canadian *War Crimes Act* does not rely on

2. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, 17 July 1998, 2187 U.N.T.S. 3, UN Doc. A/CONF. 183/9 (entered into force 1 July 2002) [hereinafter "Rome Statute"].

3. See e.g. CANADA, PARLIAMENT, *Bill C-19: Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act* by David GOETZ, LS-360E, Law and Government Division, 5 April 2000, revised 15 June 2000, Part C "Ensuring Cooperation with the ICC", [Online], [www.parl.gc.ca/36/2/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/summaries/c19-e.htm] (26 September 2009).

4. Art. 17, art. 1 and preambular par. 6 of the Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2.

5. The *War Crimes Act* was adopted on 24 June 2000. Canada ratified the Rome Statute a few days later on 9 July 2000.

6. See e.g. New Zealand's *International Crimes and International Criminal Court Act 2000* (N.Z.), 2000/26, s. 12, which incorporates art. 25 (3) of the Rome Statute and also clarifies that in the event of a conflict with New Zealand law (art. 66 of the *Crimes Act 1961* (N.Z.), 1961/43, provides for modes of criminal liability), art. 25 (3) of the Rome Statute

international law and does not, at least explicitly, allow judges to base themselves upon international law principles in the event that domestic ones are inadequate or insufficient to capture the essence of international crimes. The present study aims at offering a preliminary assessment—though limited in scope—as to whether this legislative choice is likely to create difficulties in prosecutions under the Act or unjustifiable incoherence with international law.

The issue of individual criminal responsibility is quite controversial in both the practice and theory of international criminal law. Stefano Manacorda notes the following:

Traditionally, the difficulty in attributing criminal behaviour (as defined in international criminal law) to individuals derives from the fact that classical criminal law categories are built on a “mononuclear” paradigm (one author, one fact, one victim). Such categories therefore seem largely inapplicable to macrocriminality. Oversimplifying, one could say that “individual” criminal responsibility, as a principle, is inadequate for explaining “collective” criminality⁷.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) recognised in its early jurisprudence that international crimes “constitute manifestations of collective criminality [and that] the participation and contribution of the other members of the group is often vital in facilitating the commission of the offence in question⁸”. Individual culpability does not diminish with distance from the actual acts committed against specific victims. The reverse is often true. Adolf Hitler, Adolf Eichmann and the likes never laid a hand on their victims, but sent millions to their deaths⁹. Blameworthiness often increases “in tandem” with the distance separating the mastermind from the direct perpetrator¹⁰.

Article 25 of the Rome Statute now contains detailed rules of individual criminal responsibility, a positive development from earlier codifications whose rules governing participation in offences tended to be sketchy and archaic. At Nuremberg, the description of modes of liability was quite

will prevail.

7. Stefano MANACORDA, “Foreword” to the Symposium *The Principles of Individual Criminal Responsibility: A Conceptual Framework*, (2007) 5 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 913, 913.
8. *Prosecutor v. Tadić*, Case n° IT-94-1-A, Judgement, 15 July 1999, par. 191 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber) [hereinafter “*Tadić Appeal*”].
9. See Gerhard WERLE, “Individual Criminal Responsibility in Article 25 ICC Statute”, (2007) 5 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 953, 954.
10. *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, Decision on the confirmation of charges, 30 September 2008, Doc. off. ICC-01/04-01/07-717 (01-10-2008), par. 503 (Pre-Trial Chamber I).

basic¹¹. The *ad hoc* tribunals could rely on somewhat more detailed statutory provisions¹², and they progressively adopted rules aimed at capturing the collective nature of international crimes, notably through the (controversial) doctrine of joint criminal enterprise.

A comparative assessment of Canadian law and international criminal law, as codified in the Rome Statute and as interpreted by the international tribunals, is highly relevant. Differences between the two sets of principles, or gaps in either, could potentially lead to admissibility issues before the ICC or at least create inconsistency in the scope of responsibility for the same crimes, depending on whether they are prosecuted in Canadian courts, or before the ICC or other international jurisdictions. For instance, if Canadian law was found *not* to contemplate a principle of liability encompassed by the Rome Statute, or to provide for one more limited in scope, Canada could find itself unable to prosecute in its domestic courts a person who would be punishable by the ICC for the same acts, thereby opening the door to a finding of admissibility of the case before the international body¹³. Moreover, if Canadian law was found to be broader than the Rome Statute, by allowing the prosecution of a participant in an offence that could not be prosecuted pursuant to the Rome Statute or under customary international law, this could potentially violate the principle of legality in cases of retroactive prosecutions or the Canadian courts be said to lack a basis in international law for the exercise of universal

11. Art. 6 (a) of the *Charter of the International Military Tribunal*, 8 August 1945, (1945) 82 U.N.T.S. 279, provided that "participation in a common plan or conspiracy" to wage a war of aggression was a crime; art. 6 (c) *in fine* read: "Leaders, organizers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes are responsible for all acts performed by any persons in execution of such plan."
12. Art. 7 (1) of the *Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*, U.N. Doc. S/RES/827 (1993), 48th sess., 3217th Mtg., 32 ILM 1159 (1993) [hereinafter "ICTY Statute"], provides: "A person who planned, instigated, ordered, committed or otherwise aided and abetted in the planning, preparation or execution of a crime referred to in articles 2 to 5 of the present Statute, shall be individually responsible for the crime." Also see art. 6 (1) of the *Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda*, U.N. Doc. S/RES/955 (1994), 49th sess., 3454th Mtg., 33 ILM 1598 (1994) [hereinafter "ICTR Statute"].
13. On particular issue, see Bruce BROOMHALL, *International Justice & the International Criminal Court. Between Sovereignty and the Rule of Law*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2003, p. 92. Of course, the extent to which the ICC will allow a "margin of appreciation" to States in the way they implement the substantive offences and other legal principles of the Rome Statute remains to be seen: *Id.*, p. 92-93.

jurisdiction¹⁴. Finally, principles that were developed in international criminal law regarding liability have taken into account the particular nature of international crimes. Some forms of liability indeed allow persons who would be treated as accomplices under domestic principles to be treated as principals under international law. Other principles allow catching into the net of criminal culpability individuals who might escape liability under traditional domestic law principles¹⁵. Canadian modes of participation in offences may be found to be maladapted or in need of a different interpretation where applied to international crimes. The analysis of international jurisprudence in the interpretation of domestic principles of liability may therefore be of crucial importance, as was aptly confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Mugesera*¹⁶. The application of international criminal law in Canadian administrative proceedings emanating from the immigration and refugee fields should also not be underestimated.

14. It is likely not the case for the different modes of participation in offences, which tend to be narrower as we shall see, but it could potentially be the case for the inchoate offences of conspiracy to commit crimes against humanity and war crimes or even liability as accessory after the fact as an autonomous offence. On universal jurisdiction, see the decision of the Hague District Court in *Prosecutor v. Van Anraat*, Case n° LJN: AU8685 (English translation at LJN: AX6406), Judgement, 23 December 2005, par. 6.3 (judgement confirmed on appeal with different reasons: Case n° LJN: BA4676, 9 May 2007, ILDC 753).

15. See e.g. Gideon BOAS, James L. BISCHOFF and Natalie L. REID, *International Criminal Law Practitioner Library*, vol. 1 "Forms of Responsibility in International Criminal Law", Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007, p. 8-9 who highlight that the practice of the *ad hoc* tribunals has focused on two modes of liability specific to international criminal law: joint criminal enterprise and, to a lesser extent, superior responsibility.

16. *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, [2005] 2 S.C.R. 100, par. 134, 2005 SCC 40:

The statutes of the ICTY and the ICTR [...] do not use the word "counselling". This does not mean, however, that the decisions of these courts cannot be informative as to the requirements for counselling as a crime against humanity [...] This Court found in *Sharpe*, at para. 56, that counselling refers to active inducement or encouragement from an objective point of view. The ICTR has found that instigation "involves prompting another to commit an offence": *Akayesu*, Trial Chamber, at para. 482. The two terms are clearly related. As a result, we may look to the jurisprudence of the ICTY and the ICTR on instigation in determining whether counselling an offence that is not committed will be sufficient to satisfy the initial criminal act requirement for a crime against humanity under s. 7 (3.76) of the *Criminal Code*.

Though the Court was concerned with whether the *inchoate offence* could satisfy the requirements of international law regarding crimes against humanity, it justified its reliance on international case law by the similarity in the interpretation given to the term "counselling" (or its equivalents) in two decisions (*R. v. Sharpe*, [2001] 1 S.C.R. 45; *Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, Case n° ICTR-96-4-T, Judgement, 2 September 1998 (ICTR – Trial Chamber)) that were dealing at the relevant paragraphs with counselling an offence *that is eventually committed*, i.e. counselling as a mode of participation in offences.

Considering Canada's position on international justice issues generally, and its role in the development of international criminal law in particular, the analysis of Canada's legislative choices provides a good case study of the rapidly evolving trend of prosecuting international crimes at the national level. This may shed light on the fundamental issues that will be determining factors of its success, or failure. This paper forms part of a broader research project on various aspects of the *War Crimes Act* that looks, for instance, into jurisdictional issues, substantive definitions of the core crimes and of the separate offence of superior and command liability, as well as available defences, justifications and excuses. The project also explores in a comparative light other principles of liability and inchoate offences not addressed herein, such as counselling, complicity after the fact, attempt and conspiracy. Needless to say, only the overall picture can represent comprehensively the promises and limits of Canadian law as regards participation in international crimes. This paper thus offers a limited review of a few modes of participation in offences applicable to prosecutions under the *War Crimes Act*. It first examines the rules regarding principal liability (1), before turning to the principles substantiating accomplice liability, namely aiding, abetting and extended liability arising out of a common purpose (2). It further aims at offering a preliminary assessment of whether such domestic legal principles are well-suited to the prosecution of international crimes.

1 The "Commission" of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes: Principal Liability

Article 25 (3) of the Rome Statute draws upon the experience of the ICTY and ICTR regarding principles of liability. The detailed provision on modes of participation in offences is accompanied by an obligation for the Prosecutor to include, in the document containing the charges against an accused, the legal characterisation of the facts as they accord not only with the substantive crimes defined at articles 6-8 of the Statute, but also with the precise forms of participation under articles 25 and 28¹⁷. Furthermore, once the Pre-Trial Chamber decides, in the confirmation of charges hearing¹⁸, that there is sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds

17. Regulation 52 (c) of the INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, *Regulations of the Court*, Doc. off. ICC-BD/01-01-04/Rev.01-05. The Prosecutor can present alternative modes of liability. In fact, he may be required to do so if the Chamber is of the opinion that the evidence gives rise to such an alternative: *Prosecutor v. Bemba Gombo*, Decision Adjourning the Hearing pursuant to Article 61 (7) (c) (ii) of the Rome Statute, 3 March 2009, Doc. off. ICC-01/05-01/08-388 (04-03-2009, Pre-Trial Chamber III).

18. Art. 61 (7) of the Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2.

to believe that an accused has committed a crime as a principal, it will not look into the accused's liability according to the modes of accessory liability provided for at paragraphs (b) to (d) of article 25 or according to superior responsibility under article 28¹⁹. This approach is theoretically different from that of Canadian law, which imposes no obligation on the Prosecutor to specify whether a person is accused as a principal or as an accomplice²⁰.

Article 25 (3) (a) of the Rome Statute provides the most comprehensive provision thus far in an international statute regarding principal liability. It states that

a person shall be criminally responsible and liable for punishment for a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court if that person :

(a) Commits such a crime, whether as an individual, jointly with another or through another person, regardless of whether that other person is criminally responsible.

The Rome Statute thus criminalises individual commission but also, explicitly, joint commission and commission through another person, regardless of whether that other person is criminally responsible. The first part of this paper compares principal liability for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes pursuant to the *War Crimes Act* with equivalent principles under the Rome Statute or as they have been applied by the *ad hoc* tribunals.

1.1 Individual Commission

As regards individual perpetration, the applicable principles are relatively straightforward in both legal systems and should not raise any difficulties as far as their respective scopes of application are concerned. In the decision on the confirmation of charges of Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, the Pre-Trial Chamber described as a principal for "commission of the crime as an individual" he who "physically carries out

19. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, Decision on the confirmation of charges, 29 January 2007, Doc. off. ICC-01/04-01/06-803 (14-05-2007), par. 321 (Pre-Trial Chamber I); *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 471.

20. See e.g. *R. v. Harder*, [1956] S.C.R. 489; *R. v. Thatcher*, [1987] 1 S.C.R. 652, 691-694. However, the Prosecutor can decide to specify the nature of the participation of the accused in the indictment. In such a case, he or she would be limited to tendering evidence regarding that particular mode of participation: Gisèle CÔTÉ-HARPER, Pierre RAINVILLE and Jean TURGEON, *Traité de droit pénal canadien*, 4th ed., Cowansville, Éditions Yvon Blais, 1998, p. 736, and references cited at note 9. As we shall see, this is because in Canada, the principal/accomplice dichotomy carries less weight in terms of sentences and levels of criminal responsibility.

all elements of the offence”²¹. Individual perpetration is defined similarly in Canadian law²². Since the Rome Statute has provided principal liability with a broader scope by including explicitly co-perpetration and perpetration through another person, the ICC will less likely follow the tendency of the jurisprudence of the *ad hoc* tribunals to expand the notion of individual perpetration.

The *ad hoc* tribunals’ statutes do not provide guidance as to what is meant by “commission”, leaving it to the Chambers to articulate its proper meaning. In *Tadić*, the Appeals Chamber defined it as “the physical perpetration of a crime by the offender himself, or the culpable omission of an act that was mandated by a rule of criminal law”²³. However, the notion of perpetration was extended by the *ad hoc* tribunals, in an effort to reflect properly the collective nature of international crimes. The Appeals Chamber in the same judgment concluded that commission was not limited to direct and physical perpetration, but also contemplated participation in a joint criminal enterprise, a doctrine which will be discussed in more detail below²⁴. In the same vein, the *ad hoc* tribunals have also either read into the notion of commission the explicitly absent concept of co-perpetration²⁵ or given an expansive interpretation of perpetration so as to include those whose actions were “as much an integral part of the genocide as were the killings which [they] enabled”²⁶.

Such liberal interpretations of the tribunals’ statutes illustrate the judges’ uneasiness with a narrow interpretation of principal liability for international crimes and the need to reflect adequately upon various degrees of *direct*, even if remote, participation in a crime. The *ad hoc* tribunals’ insistence that those bearing serious responsibility for international crimes be recognised as principals rather than as accomplices, may be explained by

21. *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 488.

22. S. 21 (1) (a) of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46. See G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 720: “[l]’auteur matériel doit avoir accompli la totalité des éléments constitutifs de l’infraction”.

23. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 188. See also ICTR jurisprudence such as *Prosecutor v. Kayishema and Ruzindana*, Case n° ICTR-95-I-A, Judgement (Reasons), 1 June 2001, par. 187 (ICTR – Appeals Chamber).

24. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 191. See section 2.2.2 below.

25. *Prosecutor v. Stakić*, Case n° IT-97-24-T, Judgement, 31 July 2003, par. 438 (ICTY – Trial Chamber II) [hereinafter “*Stakić* Trial”], later rejected by the Appeals Chamber: *Prosecutor v. Stakić*, Case n° IT-97-24-A, Judgement, 22 March 2006, par. 62 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber) [hereinafter “*Stakić* Appeal”].

26. *Gacumbitsi v. Prosecutor*, Case n° ICTR-2001-64-A, Judgement, 7 July 2006, par. 60-61 (ICTR – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Seromba*, Case n° ICTR-2001-66-A, Judgement, 12 March 2008, par. 161 (ICTR – Appeals Chamber). See also paragraph 171.

a general tendency to impose harsher sentences on principals²⁷. As we shall see, the differentiation between principals and accomplices does not carry similar consequences as regards sentencing in Canadian law, at least in principle²⁸. It may be that Canadian judges will feel more comfortable than their international counterparts in applying principles of accomplice rather than principal liability for masterminds and other similar “non-physical” participants to international crimes. Complicity will be discussed further below. It is fitting at this juncture to examine the notions of co-perpetration and perpetration through another person as they exist under the Rome Statute and in Canadian law.

1.2 Co-perpetration

Apart from individual commission, the Rome Statute also explicitly criminalises co-perpetration. A Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC, in its decision on the confirmation of charges of Thomas Lubanga, developed rather complex principles in this regard²⁹. First, the Pre-Trial Chamber elaborated on the conceptual distinction between principals and accomplices. The Pre-Trial Chamber rejected what it termed objective and subjective approaches: “The objective approach [...] focuses on the realisation of one or more of the objective elements of the crime. From this perspective, only those who physically carry out one or more of the objective elements of the offence can be considered principals to the crime³⁰.” This is the approach of Canadian law. As for the subjective approach, it focuses on the state of mind of the accused: “only those who make their contribution with the shared intent to commit the offence can be considered principals to the crime, regardless of the level of their contribution to its commission³¹”. As the Chamber noted, this is the approach adopted by the *ad hoc* tribunals through aspects of the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise.

The Chamber elaborated on a third approach, which is not restricted to the physical perpetrators but also includes those who control the commission of the crime in one way or another. This approach identifies principals

27. See Flavia Z. GIUSTINIANI, “Stretching the Boundaries of Commission Liability. The ICTR Appeal Judgment in *Seromba*”, (2008) 6 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 783, 789, at footnote 30, where she refers to the views of different commentators on the importance that principal and secondary liability principles reflect different degrees of responsibility.

28. *R. v. Thatcher*, *supra*, note 20, 690. See section 2.2.1 below.

29. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19; the approach was largely confirmed in *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 480 ff., 519 ff.

30. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 328.

31. *Id.*, par. 329.

as those who control the commission of the offence and who are aware that they have such control because they either (1) physically perpetrated the objective elements of the offence (commission); (2) controlled the will of those who physically perpetrated the objective elements of the offence (commission through another person); or (3) held, with others, the control of the offence by reason of the essential tasks that were assigned to them (co-perpetration)³².

With respect to co-perpetration, the Chamber established an intricate test aimed at determining whether the alleged co-perpetrator had sufficient control over the offence. Control was said to exist where *objective elements* were established comprising (1) the existence of a plan or agreement between two or more persons and (2) an essential contribution by each co-perpetrator to the realisation of the offence. *Subjective elements* also needed to be established requiring (1) that the suspect have the necessary *mens rea* regarding the crime at issue; (2) that the suspect and other co-perpetrators share in the knowledge that the realisation of the objective elements of the crime might result from the implementation of their plan; and (3) that the suspect know of the factual circumstances allowing him to exercise joint control over the commission of the crime³³.

It remains to be seen whether this approach will become solid ICC jurisprudence. The current principles reveal a limited similarity with Canadian law on the issue. Section 21 (1) (a) of the *Criminal Code*, despite its use of the singular, certainly does not exclude a plurality of perpetrators³⁴. The distinction between a co-perpetrator and an accomplice turns on the issue whether the parties acted “in concert, pursuant to a common motive³⁵”. There must be “[a]n intention to act in concert with another [which] is [...] an integral part of the doctrine that, where one person commits one element of the offence and another person commits another element of the offence, both are co-perpetrators of the offence³⁶”. The analogy with the Rome Statute ends here. In Canadian law, it is also essential that the accused must have actually committed one of the essential elements of the *actus reus*: “il ne suffit pas de contribuer à la perpétration de l’infraction mais bien d’en réaliser au moins un élément essentiel (sans quoi plus rien ne départage les alinéas a) et b) de l’article 21 (1)³⁷”. It is not the importance

32. *Id.*, par. 332.

33. *Id.*, par. 342-367.

34. See s. 33 (2) of the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21.

35. *R. v. Wood* (1989), 51 C.C.C. (3d) 201, 220 (Ont. C.A.) (leave to appeal dismissed, S.C.C., 28-06-1990, 21829).

36. *R. v. Mena* (1987), 34 C.C.C. (3d) 304, 316 (Ont. C.A.).

37. G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 731.

of the contribution of a person in the commission of an offence that will determine whether he or she is a co-perpetrator or an accomplice, but whether he or she has accomplished a part of the *actus reus*³⁸. There lies the most fundamental difference between the current interpretation of the Rome Statute and Canadian law. In *Lubanga*, the Pre-Trial Chamber clearly stated that the contribution needed not be linked to the *actus reus* at the execution stage and thus rejected the view that only those who physically commit an aspect of the *actus reus* can be considered principals to the crime³⁹.

Co-perpetratorship in Canadian law is thus much more limited in scope than under the Rome Statute, which was strongly influenced by continental European legal models. It excludes individuals who have not physically committed an element of the *actus reus* of an offence that was materially perpetrated by others, but to which they have nonetheless contributed in an essential manner and according to a common concerted plan.

1.3 Perpetration Through Another Person

Article 25 (3) (a) of the Rome Statute also criminalises commission “through another person⁴⁰”. The concept of innocent agency is known to Canadian law. In such instances, a person who has not personally committed any material element of the offence may nevertheless be considered a principal to it⁴¹. The innocent agent is used by the perpetrator to commit an unlawful act. He or she is either unaware that the act is unlawful, or cannot be held responsible because of mental illness or minority, for instance, or because he or she was acting under duress.

However, article 25 (3) (a) of the Rome Statute does not limit itself to perpetration through an innocent agent. It specifies that commission through another person occurs “regardless of whether that other person is criminally responsible”. It thus recognises the possibility of perpetration through a guilty agent, a concept which it distinguishes from co-perpetration. This concept is foreign to Canadian law and may originate from

38. *Id.*, p. 729.

39. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 348 (also par. 328). See also *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 526.

40. Note that the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber in *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 491, further confirmed that *co-perpetratorship* through a guilty or innocent agent is contemplated by the Statute: “basing a person’s criminal responsibility upon the *joint commission of a crime through one or more persons is therefore a mode of liability* ‘in accordance with the Statute’” [emphasis added]. This amounts to the creation of a fourth mode of principal liability under art. 25 (3) (a) of the Rome Statute.

41. See e.g. *R. v. Berryman* (1990), 78 C.R. (3d) 376, 381-387 (B.C.C.A.).

similar doctrines found in States within the continental European legal tradition⁴². In *Katanga and Chui*, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I elaborated on this doctrine, which it also identified by the terms: “perpetrator behind the perpetrator (*Täter hinter dem Täter*)⁴³”. It explained:

The underlying rationale of this model of criminal responsibility is that the perpetrator behind the perpetrator is responsible because he controls the will of the direct perpetrator. As such, in some scenarios it is possible for both perpetrators to be criminally liable as principals: the direct perpetrator for his fulfilment of the subjective and objective elements of the crime, and the perpetrator behind the perpetrator for his control over the crime via his control over the will of the direct perpetrator⁴⁴.

As to the applicability of the doctrine to cases most relevant to international criminal law, the Chamber noted that they “are those in which the perpetrator behind the perpetrator commits the crime through another by means of ‘control over an organisation’ (*Organisationsherrschaft*)⁴⁵”. It stated:

The leader must use his control over the apparatus to execute crimes, which means that the leader, as the perpetrator behind the perpetrator, mobilises his authority and power within the organisation to secure compliance with his orders. Compliance must include the commission of any of the crimes under the jurisdiction of this Court⁴⁶.

The somewhat controversial⁴⁷ notion of perpetration through a guilty agent seems destined to a great future. On 4 March 2009, an ICC Pre-Trial Chamber issued an arrest warrant against the President of Sudan, Omar

42. See examples provided by Robert CRYER and others, *An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007, p. 303; see also Florian JESSBERGER and Julia GENEUSS, “On the Application of a Theory of Indirect Perpetration in *Al Bashir*. German Doctrine at The Hague?”, (2008) 6 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 853.

43. *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 496.

44. *Id.*, par. 497.

45. *Id.*, par. 498, and on the doctrine generally, see par. 495-518. See also *Prosecutor v. Bemba Gombo*, Decision on the Prosecutor’s Application for a Warrant of Arrest against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, 10 June 2008, Doc. off. ICC-01/05-01/08-14-t (17-07-2008), par. 69-84 (Pre-Trial Chamber III). For a more extensive description of the doctrine, see e.g. F. JESSBERGER and J. GENEUSS, *supra*, note 42, 863, at footnote 48.

46. *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 514.

47. R. CRYER and others, *supra*, note 42, p. 303. Also, despite its inclusion in the Rome Statute, it is unsettled whether this doctrine forms part of customary international law: *Stakić Appeal*, *supra*, note 25, par. 62; *contra*: *Gacumbitsi v. Prosecutor*, *supra*, note 26, par. 21 (Schomburg J., in dissent). See also *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 508, where the Pre-Trial Chamber said it needed not decide the issue since the Rome Statute was decisive.

Al Bashir, for crimes committed in Darfur, based on this concept⁴⁸. The majority of the Chamber found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that Omar Al Bashir and other high-ranking Sudanese political and military leaders directed the branches of the State apparatus and led them, in a coordinated manner, to implement jointly a common plan consisting of a counter-insurgency campaign against rebel groups, as well as an unlawful attack on a part of the civilian population of Darfur perceived as being close to the rebels. The targeted tribes were to be subjected to forcible transfers and acts of murder, extermination, rape, torture, and pillage⁴⁹. The Chamber also found that “there are reasonable grounds to believe that Omar Al Bashir, as *de jure* and *de facto* President of the State of Sudan and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces at all times relevant to the Prosecution Application, played an essential role in coordinating the design and implementation of the common plan⁵⁰”. He stands accused of numerous charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Perpetration through a guilty agent and co-perpetration will likely play an essential role at the ICC in securing accountability of masterminds and the likes who control the commission of core crimes without themselves executing an aspect of the *actus reus* of such crimes. Considering the absence, or limited scope, of these modes of liability under Canadian law, principal liability will be inapplicable for a wide range of persons responsible for the “most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole⁵¹”. It may, or it may not, be a consequential limitation of Canadian law. It will in fact be problematic only if participants to

48. *Prosecutor v. Al Bashir* (“Omar Al Bashir”), Decision on the Prosecution’s Application for a Warrant of Arrest against Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir, 4 March 2009, Doc. off. ICC-02/05-01/09-3 (04-03-2009, Pre-Trial Chamber I). See also INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, *Situation in Darfur, The Sudan*, “Public Redacted Version of Prosecutor’s Application under Article 58”, Public Document, 14 July 2008, Doc. off. ICC-02/05-157-AnxA (12-09-2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I), [Online], [www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/doc/doc559999.pdf] (26 October 2009); INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, *Situation in Darfur, The Sudan*, “Summary of the Case. Prosecutor’s Application for Warrant of Arrest under 58 Against Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir”, The Hague, 14 July 2008, [Online], [www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/64FA6B33-05C3-4E9C-A672-3FA2B58CB2C9/277758/ICCOTPSummary20081704ENG.pdf] (26 October 2009). The summons to appear issued against a rebel commander is also based on this concept (as well as co-perpetratorship): *The Prosecutor v. Abu Garda*, Decision on the Prosecutor’s Application under Article 58, 7 May 2009, Doc. off. ICC-02/05-02/09-15-AnxA (29-07-2009, Pre-Trial Chamber I).

49. *Prosecutor v. Al Bashir*, *supra*, note 48, par. 214-220.

50. *Id.*, par. 221.

51. Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2, preambular par. 4.

international offences escape justice because their contribution cannot be encompassed adequately by other applicable principles.

This leads us to a comparative analysis of accomplice liability and the manner in which it may apply to international crimes in Canada. This enquiry may shed light on the intricate question of whether the *War Crimes Act*, by referring exclusively to principles of liability available in Canadian law, has equipped Canadian courts well enough to embark, as they must, on the difficult journey of war crimes prosecution.

2 Complicity: Aiding, Abetting and Common Purpose

Accomplice liability is called to play an essential role in the endeavour of imputing liability to the numerous individuals who may have contributed to the commission of international crimes. This is particularly so in situations where a restrictive view of principal liability is adopted, as we have seen is the case in Canadian law. The aim of this second Part is to assess, in light of the international principles, whether and how Canadian principles of accomplice liability can reflect the reality of international crimes, in full respect of the principle of complementarity, while staying true to the canons of domestic criminal law.

2.1 Modes of Participation Included in the *Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act*

Sections 4 (1) and 6 (1) of the *War Crimes Act* state that “[e]very person is guilty of an indictable offence *who commits*” [emphasis added] one of the core crimes. It specifically adds, at paragraph (1.1), that “[e]very person who conspires or attempts to commit, is an accessory after the fact in relation to, or counsels in relation to, an offence referred to in subsection (1) is guilty of an indictable offence.”

The Act does not *explicitly* include important forms of participation in a crime provided for at section 21 of the *Criminal Code*, namely aiding, abetting and extended liability arising out of a common purpose⁵². This has

52. This is in stark contrast with the repealed s. 7 (3.77) of the *Criminal Code*, which was much more explicit: “In the definitions ‘crime against humanity’ and ‘war crime’ in subsection (3.76), ‘act or omission’ includes, for greater certainty, attempting or conspiring to commit, counselling any person to commit, aiding or abetting any person in the commission of, or being an accessory after the fact in relation to, an act or omission.” Interestingly, and though it has no interpretative value, the marginal note at ss. 4 (1.1) and 6 (1.1) of the *War Crimes Act* reads differently in English than in French. In English, it reads “[c]onspiracy, attempt, etc.” while in French it reads: “[p]lunion de la tentative, de la complicité, etc.” [emphasis added]. It is puzzling that “conspiracy” has been rendered

led to debates and arguments as to whether complicity (before the fact) can form a basis for prosecution of a core international crime in Canada⁵³. Fortunately, the negative view does not withstand scrutiny. Indeed, there is no doubt that section 34 (2) of the *Interpretation Act*⁵⁴ allows the provisions of the *Criminal Code* on modes of participation to apply to offences prosecuted under the *War Crimes Act*⁵⁵.

Any other interpretation would be both unjustifiable and unduly restrictive and would run contrary to the principle of complementarity, which requires that national prosecutions be able to be conducted for the whole range of crimes and perpetrators within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

in French as “complicité”, despite the fact that the *Criminal Code* generally uses the term “complot”. Discussions were held on this marginal note in the debates before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, without however taking issue on this matter. See: CANADA, HOUSE OF COMMONS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, *Crimes Against Humanity*, Meeting 52 – Evidence, 1 June 2000, [Online], [www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=1040378&Mode=1&Parl=36&Ses=2&Language=E] (15 December 2009).

53. This argument was, unsurprisingly, attempted by Désiré Munyaneza in his final legal arguments. The judgment of Denis J. in *R. c. Munyaneza*, 2009 QCCS 2201, did not address the issue, most probably since he concluded that the accused directly committed the crimes. Discussions on this issue were also held before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, where some interveners suggested that it be explicitly included: See, for instance, the remarks by Warren Allmand, President, Rights and Democracy: CANADA, HOUSE OF COMMONS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, *Crimes Against Humanity*, Meeting 46 – Evidence, 16 May 2000, [Online], [www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=1040319&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=36&Ses=2] (15 December 2009); see also exchange between Bruce Broomhall, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and Irwin Cotler, MP for Mount-Royal: CANADA, HOUSE OF COMMONS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, *Crimes Against Humanity*, Meeting 49 – Evidence, 30 May 2000, [Online], [www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=1040375&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=36&Ses=2] (15 December 2009).

54. *Interpretation Act*, *supra*, note 34.

55. On the applicability of s. 21 of the *Criminal Code* to Federal Statutes, see e.g. *Nagalingam v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship & Immigration)*, [2009] 2 F.C.R. 52, par. 67, 2008 FCA 153, 292 D.L.R. (4th) 463; implicitly in *R. v. Greenough*, [2006] N.B.J. n° 409, par. 27-30, 71 W.C.B. (2d) 492. With respect to the *War Crimes Act*, the Federal Court of Appeal was unambiguous in its conclusion that complicity was contemplated by the Act in the case of *Zazai v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2005 FCA 303, though the conclusion was not based on the applicability of the *Interpretation Act*. See generally: G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 74 and references cited therein; specifically with respect to the *War Crimes Act*: Rachel GRONDIN, “La responsabilité pénale du chef militaire : un défaut d’agir mais pas un défaut d’état d’esprit”, (2004) 34 *R.G.D.* 309, 313; W. Cory WANLESS, “Corporate Liability for International Crimes under Canada’s Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act”, (2009) 7 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 201, 207.

The inclusion of paragraph (1.1) was probably deemed necessary because the offences designated therein are autonomous offences in the *Criminal Code* and not modes of participation in crimes. Interestingly, as we shall see, some of these offences are not criminalised as such in international criminal law.

2.2 Aiding and Abetting

In Canadian law as well as in international criminal law, aiding and abetting are separate forms of secondary liability, but they are typically used and referred to together⁵⁶. They will be treated in a similar fashion here except where distinctions are warranted.

Paragraphs 21 (1) (b) and (c) of the *Criminal Code* provide:

(1) Every one is a party to an offence who [...]

(b) does or omits to do anything for the purpose of aiding any person to commit it; or

(c) abets any person in committing it.

Article 25 (3) (c) of the Rome Statute provides that

a person shall be criminally responsible and liable for punishment for a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court if that person: [...]

(c) For the purpose of facilitating the commission of such a crime, aids, abets or otherwise assists in its commission or its attempted commission, including providing the means for its commission.

Aiding and abetting is likely to play a less important role before the ICC than before Canadian courts, because of the wide scope given to principal liability in the Rome Statute. Similarly, aiding and abetting has had a limited significance before the *ad hoc* tribunals, which relied extensively on joint criminal enterprise as a mode of principal liability⁵⁷. For this reason, Canadian judges, when applying the notion of aiding and abetting to international crimes, should not only be guided by the principles

56. On their separate meaning, see in Canadian law *R. v. Greyeyes*, [1997] 2 S.C.R. 825, par. 26 (Cory, McLachlin and Major JJ.: minority concurring opinion; point not discussed by the majority). In international law, see *Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, *supra*, note 16, par. 484.

57. Clearly, international tribunals also often focus on those bearing the greatest responsibility for international crimes – leaders, masterminds, and high or mid-range perpetrators. Though Canadian courts may end up having before them low-level perpetrators for the most part, the law must be able to address all levels of contributions to the core crimes. Furthermore, “ordering”, “soliciting” and “inducing” the commission of crimes which are eventually committed or attempted, as per art. 25 (3) (b) of the Rome Statute or 7 (1) and 6 (1) of the ICTY and ICTR Statutes respectively, are important forms of secondary liability. While “ordering” is absent in Canadian law, “counselling” as a mode

developed by the international tribunals as regards aiding and abetting. Canadian jurisprudence should also consider as informative the ICC jurisprudence on principal liability, notably co-perpetration and commission through another person, as well as the *ad hoc* tribunals' jurisprudence on the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise. This will be particularly important where the accused is a leader, a mastermind of crimes or a mid-level participant whose contribution to the actual crime(s), and links to the physical perpetrators, are more remote than is often the case with the accomplice under traditional common law.

2.2.1 Comparative Analysis

Before turning to differences, it may be useful to note at the outset that Canadian law and international criminal law (as interpreted by the *ad hoc* tribunals) coincide in various respects regarding aiding and abetting. For instance, both legal systems are in broad agreement concerning the consequences of mere presence and omissions. Though there are nuances, it will not be necessary to delve into this issue here⁵⁸. Furthermore, in both systems, the guilt of the aider or abettor does not depend upon the principal being prosecuted or even identified⁵⁹. Moreover, it is entirely possible that the principal may not even be aware of the accused's contribution⁶⁰. Both legal systems also criminalise complicity of an *attempted* offence, though the consequences of such conduct may end up being quite different. Indeed, article 25 (3) (f) of the Rome Statute criminalises attempt, but the language used seems to indicate that liability will be incurred for the main crime that was attempted rather than for a self-standing inchoate crime of attempt⁶¹.

of participation in offences is equivalent to "soliciting" and "inducing" and will also be called to play a crucial role in domestic prosecutions for international crimes. As mentioned above, the analysis of counselling is not addressed in this paper.

58. In international criminal law, see e.g. *Prosecutor v. Furundžija*, Case n° IT-95-17/1-T, Judgement, 10 December 1998, par. 203, 232 (ICTY – Trial Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, Case n° IT-99-36-A, Judgement, 3 April 2007, par. 273 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Mrkšić and Šljivančanin*, Case n° IT-95-13/1-A, Judgement, 5 May 2009, par. 51 ff. (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); in Canadian law, see e.g. *R. v. Dunlop*, [1979] 2 S.C.R. 881.
59. In Canadian law, see e.g. s. 23.1 of the *Criminal Code*; in international criminal law, see e.g. *Stakić Trial*, *supra*, note 25, par. 554; *Prosecutor v. Akayesu*, *supra*, note 16, par. 530.
60. In Canadian law, see G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 768 and authorities cited therein; in international criminal law, see e.g. *Tadić Appeal*, *supra*, note 8, par. 229.
61. S. 25 (3) (f) of the Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2, reads: "In accordance with this Statute, a person shall be criminally responsible and liable for punishment for a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court if that person [...] (f) Attempts to commit such a crime"

This distinction has an impact, among other things, on aiders and abettors of an uncompleted offence. Indeed, under the Rome Statute, an accomplice to an offence that was only attempted will be prosecuted for that offence, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes⁶². In Canada, the same person would be prosecuted for the self-standing offence of attempt⁶³. Normally, under Canadian law the sentence is much more lenient for attempt than for the actual crime⁶⁴. However, exceptionally, the *War Crimes Act* applies the same sentence for the committed crime as for the inchoate offences contemplated therein, including attempt, thereby ensuring greater consistency with the Rome Statute⁶⁵. There have been no convictions for attempt under international criminal law, so it is difficult to anticipate how its gravity will be assessed for the purposes of sentencing. The Court would no doubt refer to general principles, in accordance with article 21 (2) of the Statute, and probably find that virtually all legal systems punish attempts less severely than crimes that actually take place.

A first major difference between international criminal law and Canadian law has already been identified but should be highlighted in more detail here. There has been a tendency in international criminal law to consider aiders and abettors as having a lower degree of criminal responsibility than principals. Consequently, it was held that “aiding and abetting is a form of responsibility which generally warrants a lower sentence than [...] responsibility as a co-perpetrator”⁶⁶. In Canada, as in English common law,

[emphasis added]. It therefore seems that attempt to commit a crime within the jurisdiction of the ICC, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, will attract liability for *that* crime. This is consonant with art. 5 (1), which lists exhaustively the crimes for which the Court has jurisdiction. *Contra*: see G. BOAS, J.L. BISCHOFF and N.L. REID, *supra*, note 15, p. 333.

62. Art. 25 (3) (c) of the Rome Statute, reproduced above.

63. In Canadian law, since attempt is an autonomous offence, there can be secondary liability through the combined effect of ss. 21, 24 and 463 of the *Criminal Code*. Ss. 4 (1.1) and 6 (1.1) of the *War Crimes Act* criminalise attempt as an inchoate offence: “Every person who [...] attempts to commit [...] an offence referred to in subsection (1) is guilty of an indictable offence.” The inchoate nature is confirmed at subsection (2) which provides for sentences: “Every person who commits *an offence under* subsection (1) *or* (1.1)” [emphasis added].

64. S. 463 (a) of the *Criminal Code* (imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years).

65. Ss. 4 (2) (b) and 6 (2) (b) of the *War Crimes Act* provide for a possibility of imprisonment for life compared to a possibility of a term of a maximum of thirty years under the Rome Statute or, perhaps less likely considering the inchoate nature of attempt, of a life sentence (art. 77 (1) (b) of the Rome Statute justifies life imprisonment by the extreme gravity of the crime).

66. *Prosecutor v. Vasiljević*, Case n° IT-98-32-A, Judgement, 25 February 2004, par. 182 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); see e.g. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, Case n° IT-05-87-T, Judgement, 26 February 2009, par. 90 (ICTY – Trial Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Orić*,

principal and secondary parties are charged with the same offence and are subject in principle to the same sentence⁶⁷. The trial judge, however, retains full discretion to impose a sentence that is in accordance with the degree of culpability of each participant⁶⁸. The practical impact of the principal/secondary dichotomy is therefore much less significant in Canada. However, the distinction between principals and accomplices remains relevant because, among other things, the requirements are different regarding the material and mental elements, causality and defences. Considering the narrow scope of principal liability, the limits of the law on secondary participation will in many cases represent the limits of Canadian law regarding liability for international crimes.

Regarding the *actus reus* of aiding and abetting, it may be noted that international criminal law requires that the assistance have an effect, usually described as substantial, upon the perpetration of the crime. The classic formulation of this principle emanates from the *Tadić* appeal: "The aider and abettor carries out acts specifically directed to assist, encourage or lend moral support to the perpetration of a certain specific crime (murder, extermination, rape, torture, wanton destruction of civilian property, etc.), and this support has a *substantial effect* upon the perpetration of the crime⁶⁹." Though the act or omission must have a substantial effect, there is no requirement of a causal connection⁷⁰.

In Canadian law, the effect of the assistance or encouragement on the commission of the crime is probably irrelevant, and is, in any case, certainly insufficient. As Côté-Harper, Rainville and Turgeon have explained, "[l]a culpabilité du complice n'est [...] en rien tributaire de l'efficacité de son aide [...] Le droit permet en définitive la condamnation du complice en

Case n° IT-03-68-T, Judgement, 30 June 2006, par. 281 (ICTY – Trial Chamber II).

67. *R. v. Thatcher*, *supra*, note 20, 690.

68. See discussion in G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 742.

69. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 229 (iii) [emphasis added], referring inter alia to art. 2 (3) (d) of the *Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind*, 51 UN GAOR Supp. (n° 10) at 14, U.N. Doc. A/CN.4/L.532, corr.1, corr.3 (1996), which requires that the aiding and abetting be "direc[t] and substantial[i]" ; see also *Prosecutor v. Vasiljević*, *supra*, note 66, par. 102 ; *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 89 ; *Prosecutor v. Mrkšić and Šljivančanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 81. Commentators have observed that the tribunals have interpreted this as meaning an effect that is more than *de minimis* : Kai AMBOS, "Article 25 : Individual Criminal Responsibility", in Otto TRIFFTERER (ed.), *Commentary on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court : Observer's Notes, Article by Article*, Baden-Baden, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 1999, p. 475, at page 481.

70. *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, Case n° IT-98-30/1-A, Judgement, 28 February 2005, par. 98 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber).

l'absence de preuve de l'utilité de son rôle dans la perpétration du crime⁷¹". This is mainly because aiding (and abetting) requires further proof of the specific intent to assist in the commission of the crime⁷². Therefore, one can safely advance that the *ad hoc* tribunals' requirement that the aiding and abetting have a substantial effect upon the committed or attempted crime is a notable difference with Canadian law (where, however, the conduct of an "accomplice" that is in and of itself a "significant contributing cause" of a prohibited result would qualify for principal liability)⁷³. The effect of the aiding or abetting on the perpetration of the crime is thus not a decisive issue in Canadian law, if at all it is an issue. Notably, the Rome Statute

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71. G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 747-748, see also 760, 761-764. See also Eric COLVIN and Sanjeev ANAND, *Principles of Criminal Law*, 3d ed., Toronto, Thomson/Carswell, 2007, p. 563, but also at 564 where the authors argue that abetting, which is not explicitly expressed with "an ulterior *mens rea*", would require that there be encouragement in fact. See also the opinion of Cory J. in *R. v. Greyeyes*, *supra*, note 56, par. 38, which could be interpreted as requiring both encouragement in fact and specific intent to encourage the commission of the crime. This has been convincingly criticised: see e.g. G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 762-763.
 72. While this is clear for "aiding" (*R. v. Hibbert*, [1995] 2 S.C.R. 973, par. 31), the Supreme Court of Canada opened the door to ambiguity in *R. v. Hamilton*, [2005] 2 S.C.R. 432, 2005 SCC 47, by deciding that recklessness would suffice for counselling, which is somewhat similar to abetting. S. 21 (1) (c) of the *Criminal Code*, like s. 22, being silent on the required *mens rea* for abetting, the question arguably remains open. However, it has generally been accepted in Canadian law that specific intention is required for abetting under s. 21 (1) (c): see e.g. *R. v. Helsdon*, 2007 ONCA 54, par. 43, 216 C.C.C. (3d) 1; *R. v. Almarales*, 2008 ONCA 692, par. 67, [2008] O.J. n° 3937 (LN/QL) (the latter both delivered post-*Hamilton*); *R. v. Feddema*, 2005 ABCA 236, par. 62, [2005] A.J. n° 789 (LN/QL); *R. v. Greyeyes*, *supra*, note 56, par. 38 (Cory J.); *R. v. Curran* (1977), 1 W.W.R. 255 (Alta. S.C. (A.D.)), [1977] A.J. n° 770 (LN/QL) (leave to appeal to SCC refused); see also Pierre RAINVILLE, "Le verbe fait crime: la répression de l'instigation et les avatars de l'arrêt *Hamilton*", (2007) 11 *Can. Crim. L. Rev.* 177, 198-199, who argues convincingly that *Hamilton* cannot be interpreted so as to require a lesser degree of *mens rea* of the abettor than of the aider, s. 21 (1) (b) and (c) being complementary; see also his useful discussion of the distinction between counselling and abetting (201). To the same effect, Don STUART, *Canadian Criminal Law. A Treatise*, 5th ed., Scarborough, Thomson Carswell, 2007, p. 636 and references cited therein; G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 790 and references cited therein.
 73. The discussion here does not include the causation requirements for accomplices in prosecutions under s. 231 (5) or (6) of the *Criminal Code*, where only an "immediate, direct and substantial" participation will warrant a first degree murder conviction (*R. v. Harbottle*, [1993] 3 S.C.R. 306; *R. v. Nette*, [2001] 3 S.C.R. 488, at 522).

does not—at least expressly—require that the aiding or abetting make a substantial contribution to the crime⁷⁴.

As regards the *mens rea* of aiding and abetting, there is a noteworthy difference between Canadian law and international criminal law: Canadian law requires a *specific intention* to assist, whereas the *ad hoc* tribunals' jurisprudence requires the accused to have *knowledge* that his or her conduct will assist a specific crime. In *Tadić*, the Appeals Chamber makes this clear: "In the case of aiding and abetting, the requisite mental element is knowledge that the acts performed by the aider and abettor assist the commission of a specific crime by the principal⁷⁵." Whether and to what extent there exists a significant difference between intent, on the one hand, and knowledge, on the other hand, is unclear. In Canada, the intention to assist has sometimes been described in terms of knowledge. In *Hibbert*, in an attempt to define the meaning of "purpose" in the context of section 21 (1) (b) of the *Criminal Code*, the Supreme Court of Canada agreed with commentators "that a person who consciously performs an act knowing the consequences that will (with some degree of certainty) flow from it 'intends' these consequences or causes them 'on purpose', regardless of whether he or she *desired* them⁷⁶". Don Stuart adds: "Subjective *mens rea* is a concept of cognitive awareness and no more⁷⁷". Noting that purpose had been equated with intention, Eric Colvin and Sanjeev Anand write that "[i]t is therefore possible for someone to aid an offence in the sense that it is known that aid will result⁷⁸". Kent Roach, on the other hand, declares that "[k]nowledge is a slightly lower form of subjective *mens rea* than intent or purpose⁷⁹". It may be that the only true distinction would be if intent was

74. Gerhard Werle argues that it should however be interpreted in this way: G. WERLE, *supra*, note 9, 969. This reflects his view of the hierarchy in the degrees of participation in crimes inherent in the structure of art. 25 (3) of the Rome Statute. Joint commission requires a higher level of contribution involving control over the commission of the crime, aiding and abetting a lower, though substantial, level of contribution, whereas paragraph (d) covers "any contribution" to a group crime and would yield "the weakest form of liability" (at 969-971). *Contra*: see William A. SCHABAS, "Enforcing International Humanitarian Law: Catching the Accomplices", *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 83, n° 842, 2001, p. 439-459, at page 448 (with respect to the level of contribution required of the aider and abettor under the Rome Statute).

75. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 229 (iv); see also *Prosecutor v. Furundžija*, *supra*, note 58, par. 190-249.

76. *R. v. Hibbert*, *supra*, note 72, par. 29 [emphasis added], referring to Alan W. MEWETT and Morris MANNING, *Criminal Law*, 2nd ed., Toronto, Butterworths, 1985, p. 113.

77. D. STUART, *supra*, note 72, p. 224.

78. E. COLVIN and S. ANAND, *supra*, note 71, p. 568.

79. Kent ROACH, *Criminal Law*, 4th ed., Toronto, Irwin Law, 2009, p. 171.

interpreted as importing “the idea of ‘desire’ into the definition”⁸⁰. This approach was rejected by the Supreme Court in *Hibbert*⁸¹.

The distinction may also be dependant upon the degree of likelihood of the consequence. In *Chartrand*, the expression “with intent to” at section 281 of the *Criminal Code* was interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada as requiring proof that the accused either had a conscious purpose to cause the event *or* that the consequence was “foreseen by the accused as a certain or substantially certain result”⁸². According to this view, which also finds support in English common law⁸³, the degree of likelihood of the consequence serves to distinguish between intent and recklessness. With respect to the former, the result must be certain or substantially certain whereas the latter will be satisfied with the accused’s subjective awareness of the possibility or probability of the result occurring. Therefore, both intention and recklessness can be expressed in terms of subjective “knowledge”. The distinction will depend on the knowledge of the degree of likelihood of the occurrence of the prohibited result⁸⁴. The Rome Statute provides further support for this interpretation. Article 30 (2) states :

2. For the purposes of this article, a person has intent where :

- (a) In relation to conduct, that person means to engage in the conduct ;
- (b) In relation to a consequence, *that person means to cause that consequence or is aware that it will occur in the ordinary course of events* [emphasis added].

80. *R. v. Hibbert*, *supra*, note 72, par. 27.

81. *Id.*, par. 29.

82. *R. v. Chartrand*, [1994] 2 S.C.R. 864, 894, par. 61 ; *R. v. Buzzanga* (1979), 49 C.C.C. (2d) 369 (Ont. C.A.). See also E. COLVIN and S. ANAND, *supra*, note 71, p. 181 and 193.

83. See e.g. *R. v. Moloney*, [1985] 2 W.L.R. 648, [1985] 1 All E.R. 1025 (H.L. (Eng.)); John C. SMITH and Brian HOGAN, *Smith and Hogan Criminal Law*, 11th ed. by David C. ORMEROD, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 94.

84. Note that the majority in *R. v. Hamilton*, *supra*, note 72, par. 33, refused to definitely set out the degree of risk for recklessness. Note also the particular *mens rea* for murder under s. 229 (a) (ii) of the *Criminal Code*. This provision has an element of recklessness as to whether death is “likely” to result. The required *mens rea* is : (a) subjective intent to cause bodily harm ; (b) subjective knowledge that the bodily harm is of such a nature that it is likely to result in death. The Supreme Court of Canada, in *R. v. Cooper*, [1993] 1 S.C.R. 146, par. 22 and 30, has however said that it was only a “slight relaxation” from “intention to kill”. The Court saw the distinction thus (*id.*, 154-155, par. 19) : “The aspect of recklessness can be considered an afterthought since to secure a conviction under this section it must be established that the accused had the intent to cause such grievous bodily harm that he knew it was likely to cause death. One who causes bodily harm that he knows is likely to cause death must, in those circumstances, have a deliberate disregard for the fatal consequences which are known to be likely to occur. That is to say he must, of necessity, be reckless whether death ensues or not.”

The latter provision thus allows intent to be established either in the presence of a conscious purpose (the accused *means to cause* the consequence) or if there exists subjective foresight that the result is certain or substantially certain to occur (*will occur* in the ordinary course of events). It may be added that paragraph 3 under article 30 defines “knowledge” exactly like “intent” as regards consequences: “‘knowledge’ means awareness that [...] a consequence will occur in the ordinary course of events”. Accordingly, article 30 likely excludes recklessness as a basis for liability. The ICC Pre-Trial Chamber in *Lubanga* confirmed that recklessness is not included under article 30, but then adopted a very expansive interpretation of intention and knowledge, equating them with what Canadian law would consider to be recklessness. Indeed, the Pre-Trial Chamber accepted that the volitional element included not only conscious purpose and foresight of the necessary (certain) outcome of the conduct, but also awareness of a risk, *that could be substantial or even low*⁸⁵. However, another Pre-Trial Chamber, in a posterior and well-reasoned decision, was unequivocal that article 30 is limited to “actual intent or will to bring about the material elements of the crime” and awareness “that those elements will be the almost inevitable outcome of his acts or omissions”. It clearly rejected any lower standard⁸⁶.

The *ad hoc* tribunals have not made clear whether the accused must know that his assistance “will” or “may” or “will probably” assist in the commission of the crime. Some commentators have rejected that “knowledge” in this case includes recklessness⁸⁷. This view is supported by the first element (strangely) included in the *actus reus* of aiding and abetting by

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85. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 352-355. For a cogent critique, see Thomas WEIGEND, “Intent, Mistake of Law, and Co-perpetration in the *Lubanga* Decision on Confirmation of Charges”, (2008) 6 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 471, 480-484, who argues that art. 30 (2) (b) “precludes any extension of intent liability beyond consciously taking a ‘substantial risk’”. Interestingly, a draft provision referring to recklessness was deleted during the negotiations in Rome: see *Draft Statute for the International Criminal Court*, U.N. Doc. A/CONF.183/2/Add.1 (14 April 1998), art. 29 (4), [Online], [www.un.org/law/n9810105.pdf] (26 October 2009). See also Kai AMBOS, “General Principles of Criminal Law in the Rome Statute”, (1999) 10 *Crim. L.F.* 1, 21.
86. *Prosecutor v. Bemba Gombo*, Decision pursuant to art. 61 (7) (a) and (b) of the Rome Statute on the charges of the Prosecutor against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, 15 June 2009, Doc. off. ICC-01/05-01/08-424 (15-06-2009), par. 357-369 (Pre-Trial Chamber II).
87. Ilias BANTEKAS and Susan NASH, *International Criminal Law*, 3d ed., London, Routledge-Cavendish, 2007, p. 22. Interestingly, in *Prosecutor v. Blaškić*, Case n° IT-95-14-A, Judgement, 29 July 2004, par. 38 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber), the Appeals Chamber, while attempting to circumscribe the mental element of “ordering”, interpreted the common law notion of recklessness as limited to the awareness that the consequence will probably, not merely possibly, occur.

the *ad hoc* tribunals, namely that “it must be proven that the alleged aider and abettor committed acts *specifically aimed at* assisting, encouraging, or lending moral support for the perpetration of a specific crime⁸⁸”.

Assuming intent/purpose is a stricter requirement than knowledge, it is important to note that the Rome Statute seems in any case to impose a higher degree of *mens rea* for aiding and abetting than the *ad hoc* tribunals’ jurisprudence. Article 25 (3) (c) reads: “*For the purpose of facilitating* the commission of such a crime, aids, abets or otherwise assists in its commission or its attempted commission⁸⁹”. This wording is reminiscent of section 21 (1) (b) of the *Criminal Code*. It will be recalled that the Supreme Court of Canada interpreted “purpose” in that provision as “being essentially synonymous with ‘intention’”⁹⁰. It remains to be seen how the ICC will interpret the purpose requirement, and speculations in this regard have been many⁹¹. However, at least until such time as the ICC decides conclusively on the matter, the similarity in language as between the *Criminal Code* and the Rome Statute favours an interpretation of Canadian law regarding *mens rea* in harmony with the Rome Statute, if not with international customary law as it has been interpreted by the *ad hoc* tribunals. Complicity by recklessness is therefore excluded both in Canadian law and under the Rome Statute, and specific intent to assist is required⁹².

As a further *mens rea* requirement of aiding and abetting, international criminal law and Canadian law require that the accused be aware, at a minimum, of the essential elements of the substantive crime for which

88. *Prosecutor v. Seromba*, *supra*, note 26, par. 44 [emphasis added]. The second element being “that this support had a substantial effect on the perpetration of the crime”. See also *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 229.

89. Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2 [emphasis added]. See interesting remarks on the purpose test adopted at Rome in Doug CASSEL, “Corporate Aiding and Abetting of Human Rights Violations: Confusion in the Courts”, (2008) 6 *Northwestern Journal of International Human Rights* 304, 310.

90. *R. v. Hibbert*, *supra*, note 72, par. 36.

91. G. WERLE, *supra*, note 9, 969; R. CRYER and others, *supra*, note 42, p. 312, opine that it imposes a higher threshold than knowledge and raise the interesting issue of whether art. 25 (3) (c) of the Rome Statute requires proof of motive. In Canadian law, the motive of accomplices is irrelevant: *R. v. Greyeyes*, *supra*, note 56, par. 39; *R. v. Hibbert*, *supra*, note 72, par. 29 ff.

92. This is clear in Canadian law where aiding and abetting requires specific intention: *R. v. Roach* (2004), 192 C.C.C. (3d) 557 (Ont. C.A.); see also D. STUART, *supra*, note 72, p. 637; G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 793; E. COLVIN and S. ANAND, *supra*, note 71, p. 568. As noted above, recklessness was accepted as sufficient for counselling (which arguably overlaps with abetting) in *R. v. Hamilton*, *supra*, note 72. This interpretation of art. 25 (3) (c) of the Rome Statute is consonant with the general *mens rea* rule at art. 30, which excludes recklessness.

he or she is charged with responsibility as an aider and abettor⁹³. The *ad hoc* tribunals have concluded that this includes awareness of the mental state of the physical perpetrator⁹⁴. This requirement of knowledge of the physical perpetrator's intent applies equally to specific-intent crimes or underlying offences such as genocide or persecution as a crime against humanity⁹⁵. However, the accomplice need not share the genocidal intent of the principal⁹⁶.

The knowledge-based *mens rea* in international law for aiding and abetting genocide has been criticised by some commentators for failing to respect the fundamental characteristic at the heart of the crime of genocide, namely its specific intent⁹⁷. Others have opined that there is no practical difference between wilful assistance with subjective *knowledge* of the principal's intent to destroy a protected group and *intention* to destroy such group⁹⁸. In light of the above discussion, provided that it is subjective knowledge *at the level of reasonable certainty* that is required of the accomplice to genocide with respect to the specific intent of the principal,

93. See e.g. *Prosecutor v. Blaškić*, *supra*, note 87, par. 50; *Prosecutor v. Simić and others*, Case n° IT-95-9-A, Judgement, 28 November 2006, par. 86 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Tadić Appeal*, *supra*, note 8, par. 229. Note that there has been an apparent conflict in the jurisprudence as to whether knowledge needed to be of the *precise crime* that is aided or abetted, or of one of a number of crimes that may be committed. The former approach is the one that seems to have gained more support. For Canadian law, see e.g. *R. v. Yanover* (1985), 20 C.C.C. (3d) 300, 329 (Ont. C.A.); *R. v. Roach*, *supra*, note 92, 574.
94. *Prosecutor v. Aleksovski*, Case n° IT-95-14/1-A, Judgement, 24 March 2000, par. 162 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Simić and others*, *supra*, note 93, par. 86.
95. See e.g. *Prosecutor v. Krstić*, Case n° IT-98-33-A, Judgement, 19 April 2004, par. 140 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Furundžija*, *supra*, note 58, par. 236, 252, 257; *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 94.
96. *Prosecutor v. Simić and others*, *supra*, note 93, par. 86; *Prosecutor v. Blagojević & Jokić*, Case n° IT-02-60-A, Judgement, 9 May 2007, par. 127 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Seromba*, *supra*, note 26, par. 56. There is no need to enter here into the early debates before the *ad hoc* tribunals concerning the notion of “complicity” to commit genocide, which is included in the Genocide Convention and which was replicated in the *ad hoc* tribunals statutes, and “aiding and abetting”, which is a form of participation in all core crimes including genocide under the same statutes. The Rome Statute does not provide for a distinct principle of liability of complicity for genocide. Therefore, s. 25 (3) (c), the general provision on assistance, will apply to all core crimes including genocide.
97. See Guénaél METTRAUX, *International Crimes and the Ad Hoc Tribunals*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 212 ff., 286 ff. *Contra*: G. WERLE, *supra*, note 9, 969-970.
98. William A. SCHABAS, *Genocide in International Law. The Crimes of Crimes*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000, p. 302-303, where he also warns of possible confusion between intent and motive. On the difference between intent to assist and intent to see the crime committed, an interesting parallel can be made with Charron J.'s remarks on counselling in *R. v. Hamilton*, *supra*, note 72, par. 77 and 80.

there is indeed no effective difference with requiring that he or she share that intent.

Despite the standard for murder adopted in *Kirkness*⁹⁹, the international wording should be adopted in Canada for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Framing the requisite intent in terms of subjective knowledge of the principal's specific intent (at the level of reasonable certainty) keeps close track with the reality of assistance to the worst crimes, while yielding effectively the same result as requiring that the accomplice share that intent. Furthermore, any debate as to whether the accomplice is held to a lower form of *mens rea* than the principal (knowledge vs. specific intent) becomes less relevant in the Canadian context, where the specific intention *to assist* or *to encourage* is always a requirement for aiding or abetting. This specific intent, coupled with subjective knowledge of the principal's specific intent at the level of reasonable certainty, creates no asymmetry in the requisite *mens rea* of the accomplice and that of the principal.

There is therefore relative consistency of the applicable principles in both legal systems regarding accomplice liability. However, Canadian courts, like their international counterparts, will be faced with the lingering difficulty of establishing individual criminal responsibility in the context of *collective criminality*. For instance, is the criminal liability of a high-ranking official adequately captured by the current interpretation of aiding and abetting? Can or should the liability of a president who masterminds the commission of massive and systematic crimes be determined according to whether he or she "intended to assist" in the commission of those crimes? Clearly, his or her intent and actual role in the execution of the crimes goes beyond what is traditionally understood as accomplice liability. Furthermore, aiding and abetting is built around the idea that the material element of complicity is intrinsically linked to the material element of the impugned offence¹⁰⁰. Though the material element requirement for aiding and abetting is relatively easy to establish—a few words of encouragement will suffice for abetting, for instance—it remains closely related to the actual

99. *R. v. Kirkness*, [1990] 3 S.C.R. 74, 88, par. 20: "the requisite intent that the aider or abettor must have in order to warrant a conviction for murder must be the same as that required of the person who actually does the killing. That is to say, the person aiding or abetting the crime must intend that death ensue or intend that he or the perpetrator cause bodily harm of a kind likely to result in death and be reckless whether death ensues or not."

100. G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 767, citing Wilson J.'s dissent in *R. v. Kirkness*, *supra*, note 99, 97.

crime that was aided or abetted¹⁰¹. However, an accused's contribution to international crimes may be quite remote from the principal's (material perpetrator's) actions. Aiding and abetting under section 21 (1) (b) and (c) must be interpreted so as to cover adequately the various types of participation in large collective enterprises leading to massive crimes.

The *ad hoc* tribunals have gone to great lengths in attempting to establish individual responsibility in that context. They have developed the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise in response to the observation that the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes frequently occur through the implication of a plurality of persons, some of whom remain at a distance from the actual perpetrators¹⁰². The doctrine has indeed served as a basis for a large proportion of the convictions entered by the *ad hoc* tribunals¹⁰³. The Rome Statute has not espoused the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise to its full extent. However, to respond to the same concerns and with comparable results, it adopts, as we have seen, a broad definition of principal liability through an expansive interpretation of co-perpetration and an innovative concept of perpetration-by-means. With these recent developments in mind, the following analysis of the joint criminal enterprise doctrine will allow us to assess whether and how aiding and abetting in Canadian criminal law can respond specifically to the reality of collective mass criminality.

2.2.2 Joint Criminal Enterprise

The recognition as part of international customary law¹⁰⁴ of the joint criminal enterprise doctrine within principal liability¹⁰⁵ has been the object of substantial academic and jurisprudential debate. The leading judgment is once again the *Tadić* Appeal. In that case, the ICTY Appeals Chamber identified three classes of cases where liability arising from a common

101. This link with the crime committed is required even if the aiding or abetting does not need to have any material effect on the commission of the crime. It is also necessary even if the accomplice can be found liable while the principal is acquitted, found non-responsible or is unknown: s. 23.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

102. See e.g. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, Case n° IT-00-39-A, Judgement, 17 March 2009, par. 663 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber).

103. G. BOAS, J.L. BISCHOFF and N.L. REID, *supra*, note 15, p. 8-9.

104. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 195-219 (partly basing this finding on art. 25 (3) (d) of the Rome Statute, which however only covers limited aspects of the doctrine developed in *Tadić*); *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 658.

105. *Prosecutor v. Vasiljević*, *supra*, note 66, par. 102; *Prosecutor v. Krnojelac*, Case n° IT-97-25-A, Judgement, 17 September 2003, par. 73 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber) (overruling the Trial Chamber's holding that joint criminal enterprise is a form of accomplice liability); *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 662-666.

purpose might arise. These categories have come to be labelled basic joint criminal enterprise (JCE 1), systemic joint criminal enterprise (JCE 2; the concentration camp cases) and extended joint criminal enterprise (JCE 3)¹⁰⁶. The *actus reus* was said to be common to all three types of joint criminal enterprise:

i. A *plurality of persons*. They need not be organised in a military, political or administrative structure [...]

ii. *The existence of a common plan, design or purpose which amounts to or involves the commission of a crime provided for in the Statute*. There is no necessity for this plan, design or purpose to have been previously arranged or formulated. The common plan or purpose may materialise extemporaneously and be inferred from the fact that a plurality of persons acts in unison to put into effect a joint criminal enterprise.

iii. *Participation of the accused in the common design* involving the perpetration of one of the crimes provided for in the Statute. This participation need not involve commission of a specific crime under one of those provisions (for example, murder, extermination, torture, rape, etc.), but may take the form of assistance in, or contribution to, the execution of the common plan or purpose¹⁰⁷.

Later cases contributed in clarifying the nature of the *actus reus*. For our purposes, suffice it to note the following:

- 1) Membership in the group having a common criminal purpose is not sufficient *per se*¹⁰⁸. There is no guilt by “mere association”¹⁰⁹.
- 2) The doctrine of joint criminal enterprise is not restricted to small-scale cases and can apply to large criminal enterprises¹¹⁰. Furthermore, “[w]hile a Trial Chamber must identify the plurality of persons belonging to the JCE, it is not necessary to identify by name each of the persons involved. Depending on the circumstances of the case, it can be sufficient to refer to categories or groups of persons”¹¹¹.
- 3) The accused need not have performed any part of the *actus reus* of the perpetrated crime¹¹². The contribution of the accused need not

106. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 220.

107. *Id.*, par. 227.

108. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 26; *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, Case n° IT-99-36-T, Judgement, 1 September 2004, par. 263 (ICTY – Trial Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 19-21 (separate opinion of Shahabuddeen J.).

109. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 424.

110. *Id.*, par. 425; *Prosecutor v. Karemera, Ngirumpatse and Nzirorera*, Cases n°s 98-44-AR72.5 and 98-44-AR72.6, Decision on Jurisdictional Appeals: Joint Criminal Enterprise, 12 April 2006, par. 11-18 (ICTR – Appeals Chamber).

111. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 156.

112. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 427; *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, *supra*, note 70, par. 99.

be necessary or substantial, but some chambers have affirmed that it should at least be a significant contribution to the common criminal purpose¹¹³. Several factors may serve to evaluate the level of participation, such as the accused's position of authority, efforts made to impede the effective functioning of the system, etc.¹¹⁴ Causation is irrelevant¹¹⁵.

- 4) If the plan fundamentally changes, the accused is only liable for the crimes which related to the original plan to which he had subscribed¹¹⁶. However, a joint criminal enterprise can come to embrace expanded criminal means (additional crimes not originally encompassed in the joint criminal enterprise), as long as the evidence shows that the members agreed (explicitly or not) on this expansion of means to achieve the common objective¹¹⁷.
- 5) The actual perpetrator need not be a party to the common purpose. Members of a joint criminal enterprise can incur liability for crimes committed by principal perpetrators who were non-members of the enterprise, provided that it has been established that the crimes can be imputed to at least one member of the enterprise and that this member—when using the principal perpetrators—acted in accordance with the common objective¹¹⁸.

Following *Tadić*, the level of *mens rea* changes according to the category of joint criminal enterprise which is concerned:

With regard to the *first category*, what is required is the *intent to perpetrate a certain crime* (this being the shared intent on the part of all co-perpetrators). With regard to the *second category* (which, as noted above, is really a variant of the first),

113. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 430.

114. *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, Case n° IT-98-30/1-T, Judgement, 2 November 2001, par. 311 (ICTY – Trial Chamber). The Appeals Chamber did not reverse this position, but it held that an accused's position is not determinative in itself and is only one factor to take into account to assess the level of participation: *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, *supra*, note 70, par. 101.

115. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 199.

116. *Prosecutor v. Blagojević and Jokić*, Case n° IT-02-60-T, Judgement, 17 January 2005, par. 700-701 (ICTY – Trial Chamber). But see comments of R. CRYER and others, *supra*, note 42, p. 307.

117. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 163.

118. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 413. See also *Prosecutor v. Martić*, Case n° IT-95-11-A, Judgement, 8 October 2008, par. 168 (ICTY – Appeals Chamber); *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 225. This covers situations where a member of the joint criminal enterprise uses a perpetrator outside the group to achieve the common purpose. This resembles co-perpetration through another person as developed by the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber in *Prosecutor v. Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui*, *supra*, note 10, par. 491, discussed above.

personal knowledge of the system of ill-treatment is required (whether proved by express testimony or a matter of reasonable inference from the accused's position of authority), as well as the intent to further this common concerted system of ill-treatment. With regard to the *third category*, what is required is the *intention* to participate in and further the criminal activity or the criminal purpose of a group and to contribute to the joint criminal enterprise or in any event to the commission of a crime by the group. In addition, responsibility for a crime other than the one agreed upon in the common plan arises only if, under the circumstances of the case, (i) *it was foreseeable that such a crime might be perpetrated by one or other members of the group and* (ii) *the accused willingly took that risk*¹¹⁹.

Despite the use of the term “foreseeable”, rather than “foreseen”, which hints at a requirement of objective liability, the Chamber made clear that in the third category of joint criminal enterprise, “more than negligence is required. What is required is a state of mind in which a person, although he did not intend to bring about a certain result, was aware that the actions of the group were most likely to lead to that result but nevertheless willingly took that risk. In other words, the so-called *dolus eventualis* is required (also called ‘advertent recklessness’ in some national legal systems)¹²⁰.” This passage nevertheless opens the door to criminal liability for genocide on the basis of recklessness, contrary to the specific intent normally required for this crime¹²¹, an issue to which we will return below.

As mentioned, the Rome Statute does not explicitly provide for joint criminal enterprise. Article 25 (3) (d) contemplates a “residual” form of liability for crimes committed by a group of persons acting with a common purpose¹²². It envisages a form of accomplice liability, rather than principal liability as the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise was construed by the tribunals¹²³. It reads:

[A] person shall be criminally responsible and liable for punishment for a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court if that person [...]

119. *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 228 [emphasis added].

120. *Id.*, par. 220. See also *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, *supra*, note 70, par. 86. Recent cases have however used language more akin to negligence: see e.g. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 111: “that it has to be reasonably foreseeable on the basis of the information available to the accused that the crime or underlying offence would be committed”. The jurisprudence is inconsistent and most post-*Tadić* cases seem to require *both* objective and subjective foresight: see discussion in G. BOAS, J.L. BISCHOFF and N.L. REID, *supra*, note 15, p. 73-83.

121. Note that for the “systemic”, second category, joint criminal enterprises, Appeals Chambers have held that the accused must have the specific intent required for persecution and genocide: *Prosecutor v. Krnojelac*, *supra*, note 105, par. 111; *Prosecutor v. Kvočka and others*, *supra*, note 70, par. 110.

122. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 337.

123. *Id.*, par. 320.

(d) In any *other* way contributes to the commission or attempted commission of such a crime by a *group of persons acting with a common purpose*. Such contribution shall be *intentional* and shall either:

(i) Be made with the aim of furthering the criminal activity or criminal purpose of the group, where such activity or purpose involves the commission of a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court; *or*

(ii) Be made in the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit *the* crime [emphasis added].

The first category of joint criminal enterprise is clearly encompassed by the interpretation given to co-perpetration in *Lubanga*¹²⁴. The second type could possibly be encompassed by article 25 (3) (d). However, the Statute probably does not cover the extended liability for crimes not initially contemplated in the common criminal design. The *Lubanga* confirmation of charges decision¹²⁵ and the general provision on *mens rea* found at article 30 of the Rome Statute, which excludes recklessness, prevent an interpretation of any paragraph under article 25 (3) in a manner akin to the third category of joint criminal enterprise liability as construed by the *ad hoc* tribunals¹²⁶. Interestingly, though, article 25 (3) (d) (i) refers to intent to contribute to the common purpose of a group which involves commission of a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court¹²⁷. Arguably, and paraphrasing article 30 (2) of the Rome Statute, should it be established that the accused was subjectively aware that the *additional offences* would (certainly or almost certainly) occur in the ordinary course of events, the intentional requirement would be satisfied. The Rome Statute thus probably excludes only the “outer limits of type three joint criminal enterprise”¹²⁸.

In light of the above discussion, let us look at a particular provision of the *Criminal Code* which extends the liability of an accomplice to crimes that were committed as part of a common criminal purpose. Section 21 (2) reads:

(2) Where two or more persons form an intention in common to carry out an unlawful purpose and to assist each other therein and any one of them, in carrying out the common purpose, commits an offence, each of them who knew or ought to

124. See discussion in *Stakić* Trial, *supra*, note 25, par. 441.

125. *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 335.

126. But see G. BOAS, J.L. BISCHOFF and N.L. REID, *supra*, note 15, p. 128, who argue, essentially, that art. 30 does not apply to art. 25 (3) (d) of the Rome Statute.

127. Par. (ii) requires knowledge of the intention of the group to commit *the* crime. Interestingly, such contribution to a group crime is based on a “knowledge” test, arguably lower than the “purpose” test of aiding and abetting under art. 25 (3) (c) of the Rome Statute: see comments in, e.g., D. CASSEL, *supra*, note 89, 313.

128. R. CRYER and others, *supra*, note 42, p. 309.

have known that the commission of the offence would be a probable consequence of carrying out the common purpose is a party to that offence.

A cursory glance at this provision suffices to notice a certain resemblance with the third category of joint criminal enterprise developed by the *ad hoc* tribunals, which also provides for extended liability for additional offences arising out of a common purpose. Unsurprisingly, both doctrines have been criticized for imposing a sort of vicarious liability, and for violating the presumption of innocence by diminishing the minimum level of *mens rea* for crimes which require specific intent for principals. Still, there exist noteworthy differences between the two doctrines.

For our purposes here, three points will be stressed regarding section 21 (2) and the manner in which it could operate in the context of prosecutions for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Canada. First, section 21 (2) only applies to *additional offences* which were not agreed to between the participants in the joint criminal enterprise¹²⁹. Thus section 21 (2) cannot serve to capture joint criminal enterprises identified by the *ad hoc* tribunals of the first and second categories.

Second, it seems that the requirement of a common illegal design is more stringent in Canadian law than it is under the international joint criminal enterprise doctrine. Indeed, as noted above, in international law there is no need for the plan, design or purpose to have been previously arranged or formulated. It can materialise extemporaneously¹³⁰. In Canada, the temporal element of the common purpose is not fully settled, but arguably, the wording of the provision, which, in French, imposes the existence of a “*projet*”, as well as some judicial interpretations, point towards the need for the criminal purpose to have been formed prior to the commission of the crime¹³¹. It would thus exclude spontaneous group violence¹³².

A related point should be noted concerning the requirement of a common purpose: section 21 (2) requires that two or more persons “form an intention *in common* to carry out an unlawful purpose” (“*forment*

129. *R. v. Simpson*, [1988] 1 S.C.R. 3, 15, par. 14: “the unlawful purpose mentioned in s. 21(2) must be different from the offence which is actually charged”.

130. See *Tadić* Appeal, *supra*, note 8, par. 227; *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 163, footnote 418 and references cited therein, and par. 184.

131. See the discussion on this issue in Pierre RAINVILLE, “La responsabilité par appartenance ou les incertitudes conceptuelles et constitutionnelles portant sur l’article 21 (2) C.cr.”, (2008) 12 *Can. Crim. L. Rev.* 161, 208-211, including his review of the Canadian jurisprudence.

132. See e.g. *R. v. Myerscough* (2001), 77 W.C.B. (2d) 429, par. 19 (Ont. C.A.), [2001] O.J. n° 2867 (QL/LN). *Contra*: in international criminal law, see *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 102.

ensemble”). This requirement, added to the necessity that there be intention mutually to assist each other in the commission of the offence, implies that the participants to the criminal enterprise must be identifiable, and must include the actual perpetrator(s). This requirement effectively shields leaders of criminal organisations, who are usually more remote from the principal¹³³. It also prevents application of the doctrine to large criminal enterprises where full membership is difficult to establish. The difficulty in applying section 21 (2) in such cases is not linked to the leader’s intention to carry out an unlawful purpose or even to assist therein¹³⁴, but to the requirement that such intention was actually formed *in common with the main perpetrator*. The jurisprudence of the *ad hoc* tribunals is much less stringent in this regard. First, the doctrine is now probably applicable to large joint criminal enterprises¹³⁵ and it is not necessary to establish precisely the membership of the joint criminal enterprise¹³⁶. Secondly, recent developments impose liability on members even if the main perpetrator is not part of the joint criminal enterprise. As already noted, there is no need for an understanding or agreement to commit a particular crime between the accused and the principal perpetrator¹³⁷. It would be difficult, as it is currently interpreted, to allow such an extension of the common purpose at section 21 (2)¹³⁸. This is probably a good thing. The broad reach of the third category of joint criminal enterprise as interpreted by the *ad hoc* tribunals is one of the most criticised aspects of international criminal law, as is evidenced by the explicit exclusion of its outer limits in the Rome Statute.

Our third remark is concerned with the level of *mens rea* required of the accomplice for the extended liability to arise under section 21 (2) of the *Criminal Code* for international offences proscribed by the *War Crimes Act*. Liability for offences other than those agreed to in the common plan will be restricted in Canada to offences actually foreseen by the accused. Subjective foresight of the additional offences will be required. Indeed,

133. G. CÔTÉ-HARPER, P. RAINVILLE and J. TURGEON, *supra*, note 20, p. 850.

134. The assistance in the common illegal design can be intended to apply at the planning stage rather than during the actual perpetration: *R. v. Moore* (1984), 15 C.C.C. (3d) 541 (Ont. C.A.).

135. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 98, citing *Prosecutor v. Karemera, Ngirumpatse, and Nzirodera*, *supra*, note 110, par. 15-16.

136. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 184.

137. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 418 (reversing the Trial Chamber on this particular point).

138. The possibility that the main perpetrator not be part of the common enterprise is clearly excluded by the wording of s. 21 (2) of the *Criminal Code*, which requires that it be “any one of them” who “commits” the additional offence.

the Supreme Court of Canada has decided that a few offences require a special degree of *mens rea* by reason mainly of the social stigma that attaches to conviction for those offences. These offences include murder¹³⁹, attempted murder¹⁴⁰ and crimes against humanity and war crimes¹⁴¹. For these offences, *subjective mens rea* will be required as a principle of fundamental justice. Importantly, “that minimum degree of *mens rea* is constitutionally required to convict a party to that offence as well”¹⁴². The words “ought to have known” are thus to be deleted where section 21 (2) is applied to the international crimes contemplated by the Act.

Surprisingly very little has been said about what is meant by “subjective” foresight as the constitutionally-required *mens rea* for certain offences. Generally, “subjective” *mens rea* comprises both intention and recklessness¹⁴³. With respect to murder, the constitutional minimum was described as intent to cause death or intent to cause bodily harm that the accused knows will likely cause death¹⁴⁴. As mentioned above, while there is an element of “likelihood” which tracks closely the usual description of recklessness, it was held that the intent to cause bodily harm that is known will likely cause death was only a “slight relaxation” and quasi-identical to the intent

139. *R. v. Martineau*, [1990] 2 S.C.R. 633. *Obiter* in this judgement as well as in *R. v. Vaillancourt*, [1987] 2 S.C.R. 636 indicate that theft would also require subjective *mens rea*.

140. *R. v. Logan*, [1990] 2 S.C.R. 731.

141. *R. v. Finta*, [1994] 1 S.C.R. 701. Note that the essence of the justification given by the majority in *Finta* to require subjective *mens rea* has lost its relevance in Canadian law following the coming into force of the *War Crimes Act* and the reformulation of the applicable law by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, *supra*, note 16. Indeed, this conclusion was taken in a context where the Court felt justified to “elevate” crimes against humanity or war crimes so as to differentiate the moral blameworthiness of the accused from the crimes for which he was really charged, i.e. the common domestic offences such as manslaughter, confinement or robbery. Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are now criminalised as such under Canadian law and there is no justification for any “further measure of blameworthiness” (*R. v. Finta*, par. 187). However, there is little doubt that the gravity and stigma attached to the crimes, as well as the severity of the related sentences, would justify a similar conclusion as that reached by the Court in *Finta* regarding the minimum constitutional requirement. This was affirmed in *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, *supra*, note 16, par. 176 (though the *constitutional basis* for the requirement of subjective knowledge was not explicitly reaffirmed).

142. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140, 742, par. 16. For a cogent critique of the limited scope of this decision, see P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 131.

143. *R. v. Sault Ste. Marie*, [1978] 2 S.C.R. 1299, 1303.

144. *R. v. Martineau*, *supra*, note 139.

to kill¹⁴⁵. A particularly high level of recklessness is thus required, so that awareness of a *risk* or of a *possibility* of death is excluded in the case of murder¹⁴⁶. Attempted murder requires intent to kill and therefore satisfies the constitutional requirement of subjective foresight¹⁴⁷. As concerns crimes against humanity, the subjective criterion adopted in *Finta* was rearticulated in *Mugesera* in accordance with customary international law (though the constitutional basis was not explicitly reaffirmed). Most interestingly, it explicitly *includes recklessness*:

[I]n addition to the *mens rea* for the underlying act, the accused must have knowledge of the attack and must know that his or her acts comprise part of it *or take the risk that his or her acts will comprise part of it* [...] The person need not intend that the act be directed against the targeted population, and motive is irrelevant once knowledge of the attack has been established together with knowledge that the act forms a part of the attack *or with recklessness in this regard* [...] In *Finta*, the majority of this Court found that *subjective knowledge* on the part of the accused of the circumstances rendering his or her actions a crime against humanity was required. *This remains true in the sense* that the accused must have knowledge of the attack and must know that his or her acts are part of the attack, *or at least take the risk that they are part of the attack*¹⁴⁸.

Therefore, it seems that the minimal constitutional requirement of subjective foresight may include recklessness, with different levels of awareness of the risk depending on the offence at play. The constitutionally required subjective mental element of crimes against humanity includes recklessness, according to the Supreme Court of Canada¹⁴⁹. The rationale

145. *R. v. Cooper*, *supra*, note 84. As noted above, the reference to recklessness in s. 229 (a) (ii) was described as an “afterthought” in *R. v. Nygaard*, [1989] 2 S.C.R. 1074, 1088, par. 29: “The essential element is that of intending to cause bodily harm of such a grave and serious nature that the accused knew that it was likely to result in the death of the victim. The aspect of recklessness is almost an afterthought in so far as the basic intent is concerned.”

146. See a critique of the reference to recklessness in this section in K. ROACH, *supra*, note 79, p. 350-351. Interestingly, a Trial Chamber of the ICTY has accepted that “both a *dolus directus* and a *dolus eventualis* are sufficient to establish the crime of murder”. It concluded that “if the killing is committed with ‘manifest indifference to the value of human life’, even conduct of minimal risk can qualify as intentional homicide”: *Stakić* Trial, *supra*, note 25, par. 587.

147. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140, referring to *R. v. Ancio*, [1984] 1 S.C.R. 225.

148. *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, *supra*, note 16, par. 173, 174 and 176 [emphasis added].

149. Although it is not the place to discuss this issue in detail, it should be noted that the *mens rea* standard adopted by the Supreme Court of Canada for crimes against humanity, which includes recklessness as per the jurisprudence of the *ad hoc* tribunals, is at odds with art. 30 of the Rome Statute, which, as noted above, excludes recklessness as a general rule. Knowledge is defined thus at art. 30 (3): “‘knowledge’ means awareness that a circumstance exists or a consequence *will* occur in the ordinary course of events”

would likely extend to war crimes, which also require that the perpetrator “was aware of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict¹⁵⁰”. However, the crime of genocide, which is characterised by the specific intent “to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such¹⁵¹”, would likely preclude recklessness, though the question as to the constitutional minimum remains open. Obviously, murder can constitute an underlying offence of all core international crimes. In such cases, a “lower form” of recklessness (awareness of a risk) would be excluded for the underlying offence but permitted for the required knowledge of the contextual elements (attack or armed conflict) that qualify the crime as a crime against humanity or a war crime.

What is the situation of an accomplice under section 21 (2) with respect to the different levels of subjective *mens rea* required of the principal as a constitutional minimum? In *Logan*, Lamer C.J. decided that “[w]hen the principles of fundamental justice require *subjective* foresight in order to convict a principal of attempted murder, that same minimum degree of *mens rea* is constitutionally required to convict a party to the offence of attempted murder¹⁵².” Consequently, the Supreme Court of Canada declared unconstitutional, in such cases, the *objective* component of section 21 (2)¹⁵³. However, it did not reject any other wording of that provision and maintained

[emphasis added]. As the core crimes in the *War Crimes Act* are defined in accordance with international customary law, it remains to be seen whether the Rome Statute will change the state of the law as it was interpreted by the *ad hoc* tribunals and which has been made part of Canadian law in *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, *supra*, note 16.

150. See INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, *Elements of Crimes*, Doc. off. ICC-ASP/1/3 (part II-B) (9 September 2002), art. 8. The introduction specifies that that is implicit in the requirement that the “conduct took place in the context of and was associated with an [...] armed conflict”. The decision in *R. v. Finta*, *supra*, note 141, included both war crimes and crimes against humanity as requiring subjective foresight as a constitutional minimum, but *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, *supra*, note 16, was only concerned with crimes against humanity.

151. Art. 2 of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, 9 December 1948, (1951) 78 UNTS 277 [hereinafter “Genocide Convention”]; art. 6 of the Rome Statute. Note that ss. 4 (3) and 6 (3) of the *War Crimes Act*, *supra*, note 1, read: “with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, *an identifiable group of persons*, as such” [emphasis added], thereby opening the door to a more expansive interpretation of the crime.

152. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140, 745, par. 24 [emphasis added].

153. *Id.*: “To the extent that s. 21 (2) would allow for the conviction of a party to the offence of attempted murder on the basis of objective foreseeability, its operation restricts s. 7 of the Charter.”

the subjective foreseeability to the level of *probability*¹⁵⁴. Therefore, recklessness—with a high degree of consciousness—would appear as sufficient *mens rea* for liability to arise under section 21 (2), including for specific-intent crimes such as attempted murder¹⁵⁵ and, arguably, genocide. This conclusion converges with certain decisions of the ICTY which have held that the additional offences must have been foreseen as “likely” or “most likely”, though most ICTY cases state a lower standard of awareness by referring to a “possibility” of occurrence¹⁵⁶.

As noted above, extended liability of the participant in a joint criminal enterprise on the basis of recklessness for genocide and other specific-intent crimes has been criticised. In Canada, the softening of the *mens rea* requirement for the participant in a joint criminal enterprise may be justified insofar as the law requires that he or she be subjectively aware of the specific intention of the principal¹⁵⁷. The degree of likelihood of the additional offence, explicitly set at section 21 (2) to a *probability* and not merely a possibility, also imposes a high threshold for the reckless conduct to attract criminal sanction. Furthermore, it reflects the particular danger of criminal groups for the public and the additional moral guilt attached to engaging in a joint criminal enterprise that the accused knows will probably escalate¹⁵⁸. Finally, under section 21 (2), the accomplices will always be required to have a specific intent to “carry out an unlawful purpose and to assist each other therein”. This *specific intent*, coupled with the subjective foresight of the *probability* that additional offences be committed, is in the end a moderately softened mental element.

However, under that interpretation, the accomplice is still held to a lower standard than the principal for the additional specific-intent offences.

154. *Id.*, 748: “the remaining section requires, in the context of attempted murder, that the party to the common venture *know that it is probable* that his accomplice would do something with the intent to kill in carrying out the common purpose” [emphasis added].

155. See also P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 131, 196-197.

156. See cases referred to and analysed in G. BOAS, J.L. BISCHOFF and N.L. REID, *supra*, note 15, p. 73-83.

157. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140, 748.

158. See the cogent remarks of P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 131, 195-202. Also, Lord Steyn in *R. v. Powell and Daniels*; *R. v. English*, [1997] 4 All ER 545 (H.L. (Eng.)) justified the reliance on recklessness for the party to a joint criminal enterprise for additional offences requiring intent for the principal (murder) on the near impossibility of proving intent of accomplices in most cases of joint criminal enterprises and on the importance of the social problem of preventing escalation in the execution of common criminal purposes. In international criminal law, see the convincing arguments brought forward by Antonio CASSESE, *International Criminal Law*, 2d ed., Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 199-205.

The Supreme Court of Canada has not accepted that “the principles of fundamental justice prohibit the conviction of a party to an offence on the basis of a lesser degree of *mens rea* than that required to convict the principal”. However, it left open the question whether this proposition could be supported “in a situation where the sentence for a particular offence is fixed¹⁵⁹”. The *War Crimes Act* mandates a sentence of life imprisonment where intentional killing is the basis of the international offence¹⁶⁰. This could serve as a basis for an argument that an accomplice, who faces the same penalty as the principal, should be required to have the same level of (subjective) *mens rea*, which, at least for genocide and other specific intent crimes, excludes any form of recklessness¹⁶¹. Admittedly, the Supreme Court of Canada pronounced itself in the context of a discussion on the objective/subjective dichotomy. Still, its reasoning could be extended to apply to an asymmetry in the different degrees of subjective *mens rea* applicable to the accomplice and the principal¹⁶². This interpretation is supported by the Rome Statute—an interpretative guide for Canadian

159. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140, 741, par. 14. This issue was left open in *Logan*, which was concerned with attempted murder, which has no fixed sentence (s. 463 (a) of the *Criminal Code*). The same argument could hold true for murder.

160. Ss. 4 (2) (a) and 6 (2) (a) of the *War Crimes Act*. This is in line with the *Criminal Code* where mandatory life sentence for murder to the first and second degrees is the rule (s. 235).

161. The definition of genocide contained in the *War Crimes Act* reads “with intent to destroy”. These words indicate, in Canadian criminal law, crimes of specific intent for which recklessness will not suffice: See e.g. E. COLVIN and S. ANAND, *supra*, note 71, p. 182-183. For English common law, see J.C. SMITH and B. HOGAN, *supra*, note 83, p. 113. Other offences listed in the Act are defined in international customary law with an ulterior *mens rea* component, including persecution and forced pregnancy as crimes against humanity.

162. Pierre Rainville recognises that the imposition of a lower form of *mens rea* to the accomplice where the crime is one of specific intent could violate the principle of presumption of innocence, but he opines that it would be justified under s. 1 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, part I of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, [enacted as Schedule B to the *Canada Act* 1982, 1982, c. 11 (U.K.)], (which came into force on April 17, 1982): P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 131, 201-202. He also quotes numerous authors who have criticised this “anomaly”. He notes elsewhere that there is an established rule of Canadian law, though not protected by s. 7 of the Charter as per *Logan*, which provides that the accomplice should not be imposed more stringent liability rules than the principal. Though recklessness for the instigator would breach that rule, he argues that the *specific intent* to “carry out an unlawful purpose” required of the accomplice under s. 21 (2) justifies the imposition of a lower level of *mens rea* for the *additional* offences: P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 72, 191.

judges for prosecutions under the Act—which excludes liability on the basis of recklessness as a general rule¹⁶³.

In closing this discussion, it should be noted that nearly all cases in Canada concerning the application of international criminal law have emanated from the administrative level, that is from various quasi-judicial bodies or from courts (including the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court on one occasion) sitting in judicial review of such proceedings. The importance of these decisions can be considerable, as exemplified by the *Mugesera* decision which has influenced profoundly the domestic approach to international crimes. “Complicity” in international crimes has been the object of an impressive jurisprudence emanating from these fields. It is outside the scope of this article to offer a complete review of this rich and vast jurisprudence¹⁶⁴. However, two points will be stressed.

First, an analysis of this case law shows that it bears many similarities with the international joint criminal enterprise doctrine, though the two “have developed virtually in isolation of each other¹⁶⁵”. Both apply to large-scale criminal enterprises; both acknowledge that membership in a criminal organisation is not enough (though Canadian bodies have developed an exception for those organisations limited to a brutal purpose); and both recognise that the significance of the accused’s contribution need not be linked to the actual perpetration of the material elements of an offence and can be determined among other things considering “[a]n accused’s leadership status and approving silence [...] the size of the enterprise, the functions performed by the accused and his efficiency in performing them, and any efforts made by the accused to impede the efficient functioning of

163. But see *Prosecutor v. Lubanga*, *supra*, note 19, par. 352-355, discussed above. Note that ss. 4 (3) and 6 (3) of the *War Crimes Act*, *supra*, note 1, contain the crimes’ definitions, which draw extensively on customary law. Ss. 4 (4) and 6 (4) provide interpretative guidance: “[f]or greater certainty, crimes described in articles 6 and 7 and paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Rome Statute are, as of July 17, 1998, crimes according to customary international law”. Principals will see their criminal liability determined according to the substantive definitions of crimes under international law (*actus reus* and *mens rea*), including the minimal *mens rea* requirements. Participants to a joint criminal enterprise could see their liability incurred on a lower standard than under the Rome Statute because Canadian law applies to the specific material and mental elements of secondary parties.

164. For an interesting comparison of complicity in international criminal law and in Canadian refugee law, see Joseph RIKHOF, “Complicity in International Criminal Law and Canadian Refugee Law. A Comparison”, (2006) 4 *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 702.

165. *Id.*, 719.

the joint criminal enterprise¹⁶⁶. Second, and consequently, it is apposite that an analysis be undertaken as to whether and how Canadian *criminal* law may be inspired by this case law. With respect to complicity, the applicable principles have developed taking into account the collective nature of international crimes and were influenced by the “international” character of the crimes¹⁶⁷.

Summary

In summary, the state of Canadian law on principal liability and complicity (excluding counselling), when analysed in conjunction with international criminal law, is such that:

- 1) Commission and co-perpetration (principal liability) will not apply to those who participate in the commission of international crimes without however executing one of the essential elements of the *actus reus*, thereby *excluding an important proportion of participants therein and most leaders or masterminds*.
- 2) Aiding and abetting is therefore called to play a crucial role in the endeavour of imputing liability at the domestic level for the core international crimes.
- 3) Aiding and abetting is in broad terms similar in Canadian and international criminal law, but there is no requirement in Canadian law that the assistance have a substantial effect on the commission of the crime.
- 4) Aiding and abetting has a stricter *mens rea* requirement in Canadian law than the knowledge-based *mens rea* required by the *ad hoc* tribunals (though the Rome Statute may be interpreted as also requiring specific intention).

166. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 105 and references cited therein. For Canadian immigration jurisprudence, see e.g. *Ramirez v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)*, [1992] 2 F.C. 306 (C.A.); *Sivakumar v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)*, [1994] 1 F.C. 433 (C.A.); *Bazargan v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)* (1996), 67 A.C.W.S. (3d) 132 (F.C.A.), [1996] F.C.J. n° 1209 (LN/QL); *Bedoya v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2005 FC 1092, [2005] F.C.J. n° 1348 (LN/QL).

167. See e.g. *Ramirez v. Canada*, *supra*, note 166. The main rationale for interpreting the notion of complicity more broadly than in the *Criminal Code* does not rest on the fact that the evidentiary burden is lighter in immigration and refugee protection proceedings than in a criminal law context, but on the argument that a text founded on an international convention mandates an interpretation that goes beyond that given in a particular domestic legal system. The lower evidentiary standard has no bearing on the legal characterisation of the mode of participation in an offence: see e.g. *Moreno v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)*, [1994] 1 F.C. 298, par. 27 (C.A.).

- 5) Despite a slightly different standard for murder, Canadian law should continue to uphold the general requirement that the aider and abettor need not share the intent of the principal. His or her knowledge of the intention of the principal, including the latter's specific intent, will suffice. This is in line with international customary law.
- 6) Aiding and abetting, however, does not easily capture the collective nature of international crimes. It does not cover joint criminal enterprises of the first and second categories, which are themselves probably encompassed by the detailed modes of perpetration provided for under article 25 (3) (a) or under article 25 (3) (d) of the Rome Statute. *This could exclude those participants whose role may be essential for the realisation of the common criminal design, but who may be more difficult to link to a particular crime or to a particular physical perpetrator.*
- 7) The *extended* liability of section 21 (2)—with the applicable Charter guarantees—does reflect the collective nature of international crimes. It may serve to cover situations akin to those classified under the third category of joint criminal enterprises by the *ad hoc* tribunals, though its scope as to the nature of the joint criminal enterprise is—perhaps thankfully—narrower. However, the recognition of the collective nature of the core crimes applies only to *additional* offences that may have been committed as a probable consequence of the criminal design.

Conclusion

Momčilo Krajišnik was a prominent member of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), and President of the Bosnian-Serb Assembly. He was found by the ICTY to have been at the center of a joint criminal enterprise, the common objective of which was “to ethnically recompose the territories under [Bosnian-Serb leadership] control by expelling and thereby drastically reducing the proportion of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats living there”¹⁶⁸. Mr Krajišnik's material contribution to the joint criminal enterprise was to “help establish and perpetuate the SDS party and state structures that were instrumental to the commission of the crimes. He also deployed his political skills both locally and internationally to facilitate the implementation of the [joint criminal enterprise's] common objective through the crimes envisaged by that objective”¹⁶⁹. For instance, he was

168. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, Case n° IT-00-39-T, Judgement, 27 September 2006, par. 1090 (ICTY – Trial Chamber I).

169. *Id.*, par. 1120.

found to have “[participated] in the establishment, support or maintenance of SDS and Bosnian-Serb government bodies at the Republic, regional, municipal, and local levels [...] through which [he] could implement the objective of the joint criminal enterprise¹⁷⁰”. He was also found to have supported, encouraged, facilitated or participated in the dissemination of information to Bosnian Serbs “that they were in jeopardy of oppression at the hands of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, that territories on which Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats resided were Bosnian-Serb land, or that was otherwise intended to engender in Bosnian Serbs’ fear and hatred of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats or to otherwise win support for and participation in achieving the objective of the joint criminal enterprise¹⁷¹”. With the requisite intent, these contributions and comparable others were sufficient for liability to arise for the crimes against humanity of deportation and forced transfer, as well as persecution by way of deportation and forced transfer, which were the original crimes forming the common objective. Central to this determination was the fact that “the participation of an accused person in a JCE need not involve the commission of a crime, but that it may take the form of assistance in, or contribution to, the execution of the common objective or purpose¹⁷²”.

Could Momčilo Krajišnik have been successfully prosecuted in Canada? What about Omar El-Bashir (regardless of applicable immunities)? Could someone who is accused of having directed the branches of the state apparatus and led them, in a coordinated manner, to implement a joint common plan consisting of ethnic cleansing or unlawful attacks against civilians be successfully prosecuted before Canadian courts?

In the *ad hoc* tribunals’ jurisprudence and arguably in the detailed scheme of article 25 (3) of the Rome Statute, the distinction between principal and secondary liability mainly serves to reflect degrees of criminal liability¹⁷³. In Canada, modes of principal and secondary liability mostly serve classificatory purposes. Degrees of criminal responsibility are reflected at the sentencing level. Hence, a mastermind of massive crimes who can only be convicted using secondary liability principles can theoretically receive a sentence that adequately reflects the extent of his or her guilt¹⁷⁴.

However, a gap in the net cast by the Canadian legal regime may be anticipated in cases where the contribution of the accused—mostly

170. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 216.

171. *Id.*, approving the Trial Chamber findings.

172. *Id.*, par. 215.

173. See e.g. G. WERLE, *supra*, note 9.

174. *R. v. Logan*, *supra*, note 140.

leaders and masterminds, but also mid-range perpetrators who will often find themselves in a grey zone—will be more difficult to link to the material elements of a particular crime. Their role may be essential for the realisation of the common criminal design, but may, for instance, be harder to link to a particular crime of murder or rape. Indeed, this is the fundamental distinction between joint criminal enterprise and aiding and abetting at international law¹⁷⁵.

Reliance on the law governing aiding and abetting in Canada to ensure liability for participation in collective crimes yields another unsatisfactory consequence. Apart from the extended liability arising from section 21 (2) of the *Criminal Code*, the collective nature of the crime, the existence of a plan or the involvement of the accused in an illicit association may not be relevant at all when establishing guilt¹⁷⁶. Though it may at times facilitate the prosecutor's task (low-level aider or small-scale crimes with few participants), it may at other times prevent effective prosecution (mid-level participants, masterminds or large-scale criminal enterprises). In some cases, it may lead to inadequate results. Indeed, criminal law is usually more severe regarding those who associate themselves with illicit organisations or who take part in group crimes. This is sometimes reflected in the gravity of the sentence imposed¹⁷⁷, in the very extended liability of section 21 (2) for additional offences arising out of a joint criminal enterprise, and in specific offences which criminalise certain forms of association with criminal organisations regardless of the commission of a specific offence¹⁷⁸. The limited recognition of the reality of group criminality in the law applicable to international offences is unfortunate, both because it effectively prevents fair labelling of the impugned offences and participation therein, and because it can impact on the perceived gravity of certain conducts and on the attached sentences. This is in stark contrast with the principles developed by a Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC in the first decision regarding co-perpetration, where the existence of a plan or agreement is essential, as well as with the concept of perpetration through a guilty agent, which will

175. *Prosecutor v. Milutinović and others*, *supra*, note 66, par. 103 and references cited therein.

176. This is also true of aiding and abetting in international criminal law: see e.g. *Prosecutor v. Brđanin*, *supra*, note 58, par. 263; *Prosecutor v. Seromba*, *supra*, note 26, par. 57.

177. For instance, conspiracy is punished much more severely than attempt, though it is much further away from any commencement of execution: compare ss. 465 and 463 of the *Criminal Code*. Note that the *War Crimes Act* provides for the same sentence: see above. See also P. RAINVILLE, *supra*, note 131, 223.

178. See e.g. ss. 83.18, 467.1 and 467.11 of the *Criminal Code* concerning terrorist organisations and criminal organisations (the latter are defined in part by the receipt of a direct or indirect material benefit, including a financial benefit, from the commission of offences).

often be “organisational” in nature. It is also at odds with the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise developed by the *ad hoc* tribunals. In fact, it is the requirement of a plurality of persons sharing a common criminal purpose which partly justifies the co-existence of the doctrine of joint criminal enterprise with other modes of criminal liability¹⁷⁹.

Furthermore, while in most cases the use of secondary liability principles will not prevent the imposition of individual criminal liability, in certain cases it just might do so. Aiders and abettors under Canadian law can invoke defences that are not available, or available to a lesser extent, to the principal. For instance, an accomplice could theoretically invoke a defence of voluntary intoxication not similarly available, if at all, to the principal¹⁸⁰. Therefore, the “indirect perpetrator” accused of international crimes in Canada will at times be subject to a less stringent legal regime than if he were considered a principal, or if his or her participation in a criminal enterprise were recognised. It should be noted that while this may create a more favourable regime for an accused under Canadian law, it is another issue whether this leads to “incapacity” in terms of the ICC complementarity scheme. Indeed, the same defence may also be available before the ICC, regardless of whether the accused is considered a principal or an accomplice¹⁸¹.

Within the aiding and abetting regime, apart from extended liability for additional offences arising out of a common purpose, liability as an *abettor* for being a party to a *conspiracy* is an interesting route to explore. It could indeed be argued that participation in a conspiracy constitutes encouragement or counselling to commit the crime. In such a scenario, a conspiracy

179. *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, *supra*, note 102, par. 662.

180. Since aiding and abetting requires specific intent, the defence of voluntary intoxication will be open to the accused, where it will not be available to the principal where the crime is one of general intent (and where it contains an element of assault or any other interference or threat of interference by a person with the bodily integrity of another person): see s. 33.1 of the *Criminal Code* and, e.g. the review of jurisprudence and critical assessment of E. COLVIN and S. ANAND, *supra*, note 71, p. 467-473 and 486-498. Note that duress may also apply differently to the accomplice than to the principal.

181. This shows the importance of undertaking a careful comparative analysis of defences in both systems. For instance, the defence of intoxication in Canada presents at least one major difference with that available under the Rome Statute: according to the latter, the intoxication must *destroy* that person’s *capacity* to appreciate the unlawfulness or nature of his or her conduct, or capacity to control his or her conduct to conform to the requirements of law” (art. 31 (b) of the Rome Statute, *supra*, note 2 [emphasis added]). In Canadian law, the conditions are less stringent: the question is *not* whether the accused had the *capacity* to form the requisite intention, but whether he did form it in the circumstances of the case (*R. v. Robinson*, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 683; *R. v. Daley*, [2007] 3 S.C.R. 523, 2007 SCC 53).

would have to be proved, in a similar fashion to common criminal purpose under section 21 (2), and liability could be incurred for both conspiracy and the substantive crime eventually committed (or only for the latter if the merger is seen as unjustified)¹⁸². However, for liability to attach to a participant in the main crime of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, it will always be necessary to meet the conditions of abetting that *particular crime* (in the scenario under discussion, this would involve among other things that the physical perpetrator be a party to the conspiracy). In cases such as those of Bashir or Krajišnik and a majority of leaders or masterminds party to vast criminal enterprises, such a link between the high-level perpetrator, physical perpetrators and identifiable crimes on the ground may prove difficult to establish.

In addition to principal liability, aiding, abetting and common purpose, which were the central targets of this study, other modes of liability as well as inchoate offences will likely be of use in the endeavour of imputing liability at the national level for international crimes. Among those, liability for *conspiracy as a separate inchoate offence* offers an alternative for prosecutions aiming at reflecting the collective nature of international offences. It is an alternative with limited potential, however. First, it is unsatisfactory, as liability will then not be incurred for a core crime (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes). Furthermore, difficulties may arise in prosecutions for conspiracy under the *War Crimes Act*. Indeed, the Act expressly allows prosecution of conspiracy for all core crimes, whereas conspiracy is only criminalised for genocide in international law, and then again, it is not criminalised as such under the Rome Statute¹⁸³. The prevailing view currently is that “conspiracy does not exist as a form of liability for war crimes or crimes against humanity” in international customary law¹⁸⁴. This discrepancy between Canadian law and international law needs to be assessed in light of the principle of legality, enshrined in section 11 (g) of the Charter¹⁸⁵. It may also serve as a basis for an argument alleging the (inexistent) basis at international law for the exercise of universal jurisdiction over these offences. A constitutional argument is indeed conceivable for prosecutions for conspiracy to commit crimes against humanity or war crimes, at least those committed prior to the entry into force of the *War Crimes Act*.

182. See D. STUART, *supra*, note 72, p. 709.

183. Art. 3 (b) of the Genocide Convention, *supra*, note 151 ; art. 4 (3) (b) of the ICTY Statute, *supra*, note 12 ; art. 2 (3) (b) of the ICTR Statute, *supra*, note 12.

184. R. CRYER and others, *supra*, note 42, p. 318 and references cited therein. See also A. CASSESE, *supra*, note 158, p. 227.

185. *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, *supra*, note 162.

Moreover, *counselling*, both as a form of participation in offences and as an inchoate offence, will certainly prove crucial in domestic prosecutions for international crimes. There, too, a comparative analysis shows that Canadian law presents characteristics that may prove difficult to reconcile with international criminal law. Nevertheless, section 22 (2) of the *Criminal Code*, which allows for the extended liability of the counsellor for “every offence that the other commits in consequence of the counselling” will be of particular interest, despite the difficulties inherent in proving a causation link and in linking, for instance, a “high-level” counsellor with a “low-level” perpetrator.

Courts called upon to apply the Canadian principles of liability in prosecutions under the *War Crimes Act* should seek guidance in the international jurisprudence and, where relevant, the jurisprudence of the Federal Court in matters of immigration and refugee law. In these decisions, the collective nature of international crimes has influenced the law in a manner which may find an echo in the Canadian criminal law context. For instance, there is no principled reason why the law on aiding and abetting should not be developed so as to encompass contributions to—even large—joint criminal enterprises directed at the commission of mass atrocities. The accused’s contribution to the core crimes and the requisite intent should not be exclusively dependent upon the material elements of a particular offence, but should be assessed also considering an accused’s leadership status and role within an organisation or illicit association as well as his or her efforts in achieving, or impeding, the objective of the criminal purpose. Such an interpretation may be essential if Canadian law is to succeed in capturing not only low-level perpetrators—which it does in many instances—but also mid-range participants, leaders and masterminds of international crimes, particularly in the context of large criminal enterprises with a plurality of participants at different levels. Arguably, since the material element of aiding and abetting in Canadian law does not require that the act or omission of the accused have any effect whatsoever on the commission of the crime, and because it is not required that the principal even be known, it could be interpreted so as to allow more remote contributions to be considered sufficient, provided the requisite intent is present. The *War Crimes Act* forces Canadian criminal law to evolve and to move away from the “mononuclear” paradigm of one author, one fact, one victim.

The inexistence of other modes of participation particularly relevant to international crimes, such as planning and ordering, further militates for such an interpretation of the law. Liability as a superior for failing to prevent or repress the commission of crimes committed by subordinates complements the regime on secondary participation in crimes, but will

apply to different factual scenarios. Furthermore, superior liability is a distinct offence under the Act¹⁸⁶ and, in cases of participation in joint criminal enterprises, will often not adequately reflect individual criminal liability *for the core crimes*.

The present limited analysis shows that Canadian law can and must adapt to the reality of international crimes. The purpose of the system put in place by ICC—at the heart of which is the principle of complementarity—is to close the “impunity gap” for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. In order for this system to function effectively, States must be able to exercise their jurisdiction—including universal jurisdiction—against the full range of possible perpetrators, including those at the top of military and political structures (rules on immunity permitting). They must also be able to exercise their jurisdiction whatever the complexity of the structure of the collective criminal venture giving rise to the worst international crimes. Whether this is done through principal or secondary liability principles should remain the object of an interesting theoretical contest between different legal systems. However, what this legislative preference cannot do is create reason for “incapacity”, or a justification for “unwillingness”.

186. Ss. 5 and 7 of the *War Crimes Act*, *supra*, note 1.